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Style pg 23

A holiday makeover for the Mary Jane

Quarterback dies after being found in SFU pool

21-year-old had heart condition

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Simon Fraser University Clan quarterback Bernd Dittrich died yesterday morning after he lost consciousness in the school's swimming pool.

Dittrich, 21, was pulled from the university's Burnaby campus pool around 5:45 p.m. Tuesday and was rushed in critical condition to Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster. He died early yesterday morning.

Headcoach Dave Johnson said Dittrich, who was called "Bernie" by his teammates, had a previously undetected heart condition.

"He was a special young man," said Johnson in a release. "We have 94 guys in the locker room and Bernie was one of the leaders of that group."

Dr. David Murphy, SFU's senior director of athletics, said their hearts went out to the young man's family in Austria.

"Bernd was not only a great athlete on the field, but also an inspiring individual in all aspects of his life," Murphy said.

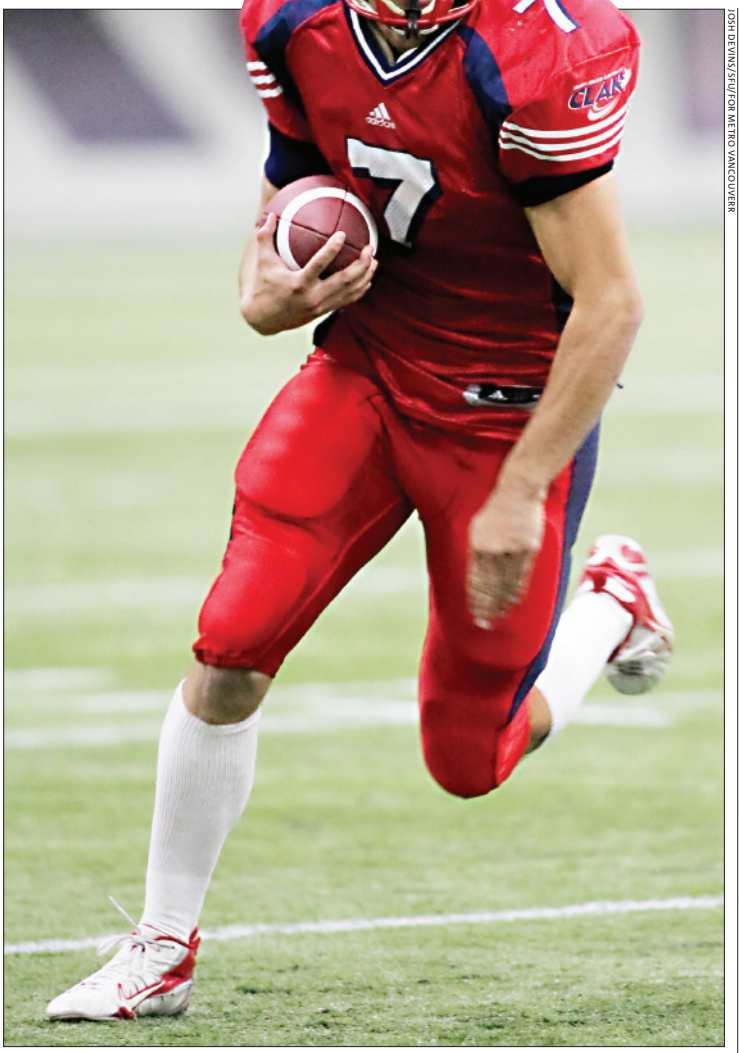
Bernd Dittrich

The third-year science student, who was originally from Vienna, grew up loving American football.

He moved to Oklahoma at 17 to play high school football for the Heavener Wolves and joined the Clan in 2007. He was named starting quarterback in 2008.

His first start was the Clan's first victory in three years and he finished the 2008 season with the team's best record in five years. He also led the Clan to a Canada West final.

A shoulder injury, however, limited him to six games this season. He was using swimming to rehabilitate his shoulder.



JOSH DEVINS/SFU/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

SFU Clan quarterback Bernd Dittrich scrambles during a 2008 game against the University of Saskatchewan at B.C. Place. Dittrich died yesterday after he was found unconscious in the university's swimming pool.

Snowfall ushers in early opening for Whistler

SKIING Whistler Mountain will open Saturday, 12 days earlier than its originally scheduled opening day.

Storms have dropped between 70 and 100 centimetres of snow on the famed ski destination during the last week. Another 65 centimetres are expected to fall by Saturday.

Skiers are asked to stay within designated ski areas and to keep an eye out for unmarked rocks and obstacles as early season conditions are in effect.

KIMBERLY SHEARON/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Critics worry $17K sound device will be used in crowd control by police

A device acquired by Vancouver police able to emit sound waves strong enough to cause pain and disrupt crowds will be used only as a public address speaker, a police spokesperson said.

Const. Lindsey Houghton confirmed the long-range acoustic device was purchased for $17,000 over the summer and said it was successfully used as a high-tech bull horn during the annual fireworks celebration.

He admitted the device can emit piercing sounds, which has critics worried it could be used for controlling protesters during the Olympics.

It has been used by the U.S. military against insurgents in Iraq.

Robert Holmes, of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, said there has been no safety testing of the "weapon" in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move

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Local

Stolen war medal returned to family

A stolen First World War medal, left, found almost two years ago in a cardboard box in Victoria, was returned this week to grateful family members who had given up hope of ever seeing it again. Victoria city worker Rick Brown found the medal in a box marked "free," and worked to find the family of Maj. George Dutton Walker.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
2009 Festival of Media Awards

News in brief

ARREST A B.C. man has been arrested for saying over the Internet he had weapons and intended on killing several individuals and then himself. Police made the arrest after a tip from an Ontario resident.

NEGLIGENCE A home inspector has been ordered to pay nearly $200,000 to a North Vancouver couple who were told the house they wanted to buy only needed about $20,000 in repairs. A judge ruled Imre Toth was "negligent" when needed repairs totalled 10 times more.

TRANSIT TransLink gave free rides to veterans and military personnel on Remembrance Day.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs SpinDoctor on why Ottawa will have to get to the bottom of H1N1 vaccine campaign glitches

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These results are not official.

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JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Soldiers march past the Victory Square Cenotaph in Vancouver during yesterday's Remembrance Day memorial. People crowded the streets to take in two minutes of silence.

Hundreds converge to pay their respects

Downtown memorial one of several in city

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Korean War veteran Arthur Leggett carried a "soldier's poem" as he paid his respect to his fallen comrades during yesterday's Remembrance Day memorial.

He was among hundreds of people who crowded the streets near the Victory Square Cenotaph in Vancouver to take in the two minutes of silence. It was capped by a 21-gun salute that echoed up from the waterfront.

Leggett, 82, who spent 14 years in the Canadian military, said he used to carry a flag in the parade, but this year carried the poem wrapped in a white plastic grocery bag to protect it from the weather.

"The same guy who gave him that poem got blown up," explained Tina McNeilly, Leggett's daughter. "He was a minute away from getting blown up himself."

The downtown event, which featured a flyover by a Canadian Forces Aurora aircraft, was one of several memorial services held around Vancouver yesterday. Others were held in Stanley Park, Commercial Drive, in South Vancouver and at the University of B.C.

Cpl. Dave Dines, a 20–year member of the Canadian Forces Medical Service, said it is important to "never forget and to pass on that to every generation and make sure they remember as well."

Little Mountain fire set deliberately: Official

PROPERTY An investigation into Tuesday night's fire at the under-demolition Little Mountain social housing complex has determined that the blaze was deliberately set, said Vancouver Fire Department Capt. Gabe Roder.

"It's a non-accidental fire," he said, adding that the building's extensive damage makes it difficult for investigators to identify how the fire was started.

The property is being torn down to make way for a redevelopment project that will see Little Mountain replaced with a mix of condos and social housing — something that could take up to 10 years to complete and has caused a group of protesters to camp on the site.

When crews arrived on scene, the building — which has been vacant for months — was already fully engulfed. The blaze spread quickly as walls had been stripped of drywall and insulation in preparation for demolition.

The electrical wiring had also been removed, indicating to investigators that the fire was deliberate, Roder said.

Demolition on Little Mountain, which was built in 1954 and once housed some 700 people, began last week.

KIMBERLY SHEARON/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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H1N1 claims eight more victims

Flu Outbreak

DISEASE Eight more people — including an eight-year-old child — have died after contracting swine flu, but early indications are that H1N1 will take fewer lives than the average flu virus, B.C. health officials report.

Twenty-three people in B.C. have fallen to the virus. All but one had an underlying condition.

Health officials urge people to get vaccinated because the virus will likely be around for a few years.

The province expects to receive about 250,000 more doses of the H1N1 vaccine today, but they won't be available in clinics until early next week.

Pregnant women and children between six months and five years are among the current priority groups to get the shot. Authorities will decide by the end of the week if eligibility will be expanded.

KIMBERLY SHEARON/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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First skaters of the season hit the ice at Grouse Mountain
Grouse Mountain's 8,000-square-foot ice-skating pond welcomed its first skaters this season at noon yesterday. The outdoor rink, which originally opened in 1997, is the only one of its kind on the West Coast. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Iraqi athlete's second shot at glory

Skeleton racer determined to reach Games after narrowly missing Turin

For Faisal Faisal, the 2006 Turin Olympics were both unforgettable and unbearable.

Pinned inside his family's Baghdad home, Faisal watched the Olympics with a war outside his window. Adding to his anguish was this: He was almost part of the show, narrowly missing qualifying for the Olympic skeleton competition.

"It crushed my life," Faisal said.

Fast forward nearly four years. Things in Baghdad remain difficult, but the 29-year-old Iraqi, is trying yet again to carry his country's flag into the Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

His odds are not good. Of course, making it this far wasn't guaranteed, either.

"When I look back at it, it's so painful, and a part of me does fear missing the Olympics again," Faisal said. "But that's the risk you take as an athlete."

Faisal, whose father and uncle were both champion track athletes, was inspired by the Nagano Games in 1998. While studying in Australia he experimented with various winter sports before settling on skeleton.

Around 2005, he called the U.S. Bobsled and Skeleton Federation seeking help. Within two weeks, he was on the ice in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Faisal

"I've always been taught that the Olympics are about bringing the world together," 2002 Olympic skeleton gold medallist Jim Shea Jr., a Lake Placid native and third-generation Winter Olympian, said at the time. "I think this story is amazing."

Helped by members of the U.S. team, Faisal barely missed earning an Olympic invite.

It'll be tougher this time.

He's already been handed one setback: There was an issue with his international racing licence, which led to him being barred from the Olympic track in Whistler during the recent two-week training period there. (Both sides say it was a misunderstanding.)

His hope is this: Carry the Iraqi flag this February. Have some Iraqi kids see what he's done, and let that serve as their motivation to take on something that might seem impossible. Sliding headfirst down an icy track is one small way to make it happen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tough road ahead

- Faisal was 73rd in the FIBT rankings last season. He did not qualify for the World Cup circuit, which opens today in Park City, so he'll race the Intercontinental Cup and America's Cup schedules. When it's time for Olympic invites to go out, 10 nations will have two or three athletes qualified for Vancouver, and he'll be chasing one of the remaining seven individual spots.

MIKE GROLL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Iraq's Faisal Faisal starts his first run during the men's Skeleton World Championships in Lake Placid, N.Y., on Feb. 27, 2009.

Hockey House to bring music, comedy to 2010 Games

ENTERTAINMENT Barenaked Ladies, Sam Roberts and Brent Butt are among the Canadian entertainers who have been scheduled to perform at the Molson Canadian Hockey House during the 2010 Olympic Games.

The venue, located on the shores of False Creek, will be home to regular concerts and comedy shows during the Games, organizers announced.

Tom Cochrane

Other musical acts scheduled to perform include rocker Tom Cochrane, Regina blues guitarist Colin James and Nova Scotia-raised country singer George Canyon.

Vancouver rockers the Odds will be the venue's house band.

Passes for the Hockey House are on sale now, with single-day passes starting at $450 per person.

Sean Cullen

Comedian Sean Cullen will put on a regular show that he says will incorporate stand-up comedy and interviews with hockey players.

"We just want people to have a good time," Cullen said.

"The Olympics is pretty buttoned-down in what you can and can't do, and everything's state-sanctioned and blah. Everything has to be sweet and the corners squared. We want ours to be rough and ready ... we just want it to be a party and a good time."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

FIRE Investigators attended a suspicious death at an Abbotsford home yesterday morning. A body was found after a house fire on Lefeuvre Road just south of Highway 1.

THEFT Richmond RCMP are asking the public's help in identifying a serial shoplifter captured by surveillance video at a Shoppers Drug Mart after the theft of high-end perfume bottles.

FRAUD Langley RCMP have received eight separate reports of unauthorized withdrawals from bank accounts. More than $3,500 was withdrawn from accounts of residents in that city.

AWARENESS RCMP is launching National Drug Awareness Week from Nov. 15-21 with the goal of educating the public about the dangers of drugs, especially ecstasy.

GAMING Despite the recently announced layoffs at Electronic Arts, B.C.'s economic development minister said the province's video game industry is growing. Minister Iain Black said that seven per cent year over year growth is forecast through 2013 in the industry, cknw.com reports.

KHADR The B.C. Civil Liberties Association will ask Canada's Supreme Court to demand the return of Omar Khadr from Guantanamo Bay.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ski jumpers before Court of Appeal

KIMBERLY SHEARON
for Metro Vancouver

"We don't agree with the trial judge's findings that the (IOC) is the final authority."
Ross Clark, lawyer

The women ski jumpers suing VANOC for inclusion in the 2010 Olympics will appear in the B.C. Court of Appeal today and tomorrow.

"We will ask the court to consider whether the (International Olympic Committee) can force VANOC to discriminate when it's carrying out a government activity," said Ross Clark, the jumpers' lawyer, in a statement yesterday.

"We don't agree with the trial judge's findings that the (IOC) is the final authority."

The IOC ruled in 2006 to keep women's ski jumping off the Olympic program for technical reasons and said it didn't meet the criteria established for inclusion in the Games.

VANOC officials have publicly stated their support for the jumpers' cause, but Deedee Corradini, president of Women's Ski Jumping USA and former mayor of Salt Lake City, said so far, organizers have failed to step up.

"Support would be VANOC taking the jumpers' position to the IOC itself rather than having the athletes take on the fight themselves," she said in a release.

‘Security threat’ naive: Lawyer

Man lied to avoid taxes: Counsel

Paranoia and naiveté led a Syrian man to lie about why he was crossing the border into Surrey with nearly $1 million in gold and what’s been called “terrorist resources,” his lawyer said.

Khaled Nawaya, a flight instructor, is being held at a Vancouver-area detention centre as a “security threat” after Canada Border Services agents found $800,000 in gold coins and other currency in his car on Oct. 6.

“He didn’t want to be taxed on it,” lawyer Phil Rankin said.

“He should have gotten legal advice on that and just declared the money. Had he declared the money, that would probably be the end of the story.”

The 35-year-old faces the Immigration and Refugee Board today to learn whether authorities have grounds to keep him in custody.

Besides the gold, Canadian agents found a ring bearing the insignia of Hezbollah, which has been listed as a terrorist organization by the Canadian government since 2002.

They also seized 9-11 conspiracy theory-themed DVDs and a scarf adorned with the images of a former Israeli prime minister and a U.S. president depicted as monkeys.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Off-road vehicle rules to be phased in over 2 years

Off-road vehicles — including snowmobiles — will have to meet new muffler standards to minimize noise impact on wildlife, among other rules slated to go into effect during the next two years, B.C.’s tourism ministry has announced.

Rules on spark arrestors, which help reduce the risk of forest fires, are also pending.

“There is a broad consensus that it is time for ORV regulations; we have a common vision and a solid blueprint for action,” Kevin Krueger, B.C.’s tourism, culture and arts minister, said in a statement Tuesday.

Other regulations will mandate that all ORV riders using Crown land have one-time registration with a licence plate for their machines. Users will also have to wear helmets and use lights at night.

Once the new rules are phased in, adult supervision will be required for young riders.

KIMBERLY SHEARON/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

OLD GROWTH FORESTS A protest is planned for noon today outside Premier Gordon Campbell’s office in Kitsilano. Organizers want the governing Liberals to include the protection of old growth forests as a part of the province’s climate change mitigation plans.

VIRAL CITY Vancouver is one of the top three Canadian cities with the largest number of computers hijacked by a virus that allows the hacker to control it, news1130.com reports. The finding was announced by McAffee.

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Auto Collision, Refinishing **Auto Technician, Heavy Duty** Tuesday, Nov. 17 and 24, 11 a.m. – lobby, north building	Broadway
English as a Second Language Wednesday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m. – room 5025	Broadway
English as a Second Language for Health Sciences Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m. – room 1212	Broadway
Dental Assisting – Certified Wednesday, Nov. 18, 5 p.m. – room 501	Downtown
Dental Reception Coordinator Wednesday, Nov. 18, 5 p.m. – room 501	Downtown
Nursing Unit Clerk Wednesday, Nov. 18, 5 p.m. – room 3221	Broadway
TESOL Thursday, Nov. 19, noon or 4 p.m. – room 206	Downtown

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Broadway campus, is located at 1155 East Broadway.

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Spiral escalators a Canadian first
Canada's first spiral escalators have been installed in the grand atrium of the River Rock Casino Resort. METRO VANCOUVER

Recycle your cellphone

Website offers dropoff locations for mobile devices

STIG NIELSEN
for Metro Vancouver

A website has been launched to help British Columbians recycle their old cellphones.

It directs users to the nearest location out of 520 across the province that are certified to recycle cellphones for free. It was created by the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association, cellphone service providers and recycling companies.

"Within seconds of entering my postal code at recyclemycell.ca, I was directed to seven drop-off locations ... where I could take my old cellphone for recycling," said Environment Minister Barry Penner.

The average cellphone is 95 per cent reusable and contains expensive parts made of materials like gold and silver.

Brock Macdonald, executive director of the Recycling Council of B.C., said the scrap materials are used to produce new mobile devices.

"This program will keep thousands of cellphones out of our landfills and help us to recover valuable resources at the same time," he said.

For every device recycled through the program, a donation is made to a charity, including Tree Canada and the World Wildlife Fund.

New and renovated homes targeted in recent robberies

CRIME A series of new or newly renovated homes has been robbed in the south part of Vancouver, with one sustaining $60,000 in combined damage and theft costs, police say.

All robberies were similar, leading police to believe they were carried out by the same thief or thieves, Const. Lindsey Houghton said in a release. They all occurred between Oct. 14 and Nov. 1.

The targeted homes were not occupied at the time of the thefts and new household appliances were taken.

The property stolen ranged from $3,000 to $35,000 per home and damage done during break-ins ranged from $5,000 to $10,000 per house.

"If you see something suspicious, maybe someone removing appliances from a home ... please call 911," said Houghton.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

HANDYDART The union representing striking HandyDart workers has called for binding arbitration to end the dispute. Pensions and wages are still major sticking points. HandyDart is currently operating on essential service levels with only kidney dialysis patients and those needing cancer treatment getting rides.

CITIES Vancouver is the lone Canadian city to make the Lonely Planet's list of Top 10 cities to visit in 2010. Charleston, S.C., is the list's only other North American city. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Outgoing ADQ boss slams Tories
The outgoing leader of the Action démocratique du Québec blames the federal Tories for helping to destroy his party. THE CANADIAN PRESS

7

Canada

Prince Charles honours war dead

British royal joins prime minister, Governor General in Remembrance Day ceremonies

Prince Charles joined Prime Minister Stephen Harper and thousands of others to pay tribute to the country's war dead at a packed national Remembrance Day ceremony yesterday.

The prince, colonel-in-chief of three Canadian regiments, donned a full military uniform with the insignia of lieutenant-general as he laid a wreath at the foot of the towering National War Memorial.

Gov.-Gen. Michaëlle Jean, titular commander-in-chief of the Canadian Forces, also wore a dress uniform in a rare display as she walked beside the prince and laid a wreath on behalf of the Queen. Her epaulets and cuffs carried the lion insignia of her office.

Along with Gen. Walter Natynczyk, their uniforms gave an unusual martial appearance to the front ranks of the ceremony.

Della Marie Morley of East Saint Paul, Man., this year's Silver Cross mother, was on hand representing all grieving families. Her son, Cpl. Keith Morley, was killed in Afghanistan on Sept. 18, 2006.

The ritual began in bright sunshine and cool temperatures with a choir singing O Canada and a bugler playing the haunting notes of The Last Post.

The crash of an artillery piece and the tolling of the Peace Tower clock sounding the hour of 11 a.m. heralded the two-minute silence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gov.-Gen. Michaëlle Jean and Prince Charles speak with veterans following a Remembrance Day ceremony yesterday in Ottawa.

News in brief

SEAL BAN Sales of seal pelts from Nunavut have plummeted in the past year and a half, in the wake of the European Union's move this year to ban the trade of seal products, CBC News Online reports. The impact of worldwide publicity surrounding the ban, which EU parliamentarians passed in May, is already being felt in Nunavut, where Inuit sealers have made a living harvesting seals for the fur market. Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. in North Bay, Ont., would usually sell most of the 10,000 to 12,000 seal pelts it receives from Nunavut each year, at an average price ranging from $50 to $70, said Ed Ferguson, a fur technician with the auction house. "Now, in the last year or so, we've sold probably maybe 25 or 30 per cent, and it's at a $25 or $30 number," Ferguson said. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Harper embarking on global tours

POLITICS Avoid a fall election? Check. Distribute billions in stimulus spending across Canada? Check. Win a parliamentary vote aimed at abolishing the long-gun registry? Check. Burnish international credentials, especially with emerging powers?

Prime Minister Stephen Harper embarks today on the first of three consecutive trips abroad that will keep him out of the House of Commons virtually until the fall session ends in mid-December.

Trips to Singapore, India, Trinidad and Tobago, China and South Korea mark the culmination of an autumn political season that has seen Conservative fortunes taking flight.

Barring an unforeseen international misstep, the heavy travel itinerary may help glide his minority government through the end of 2009. His travels should also help smooth the way for next summer's international summitry.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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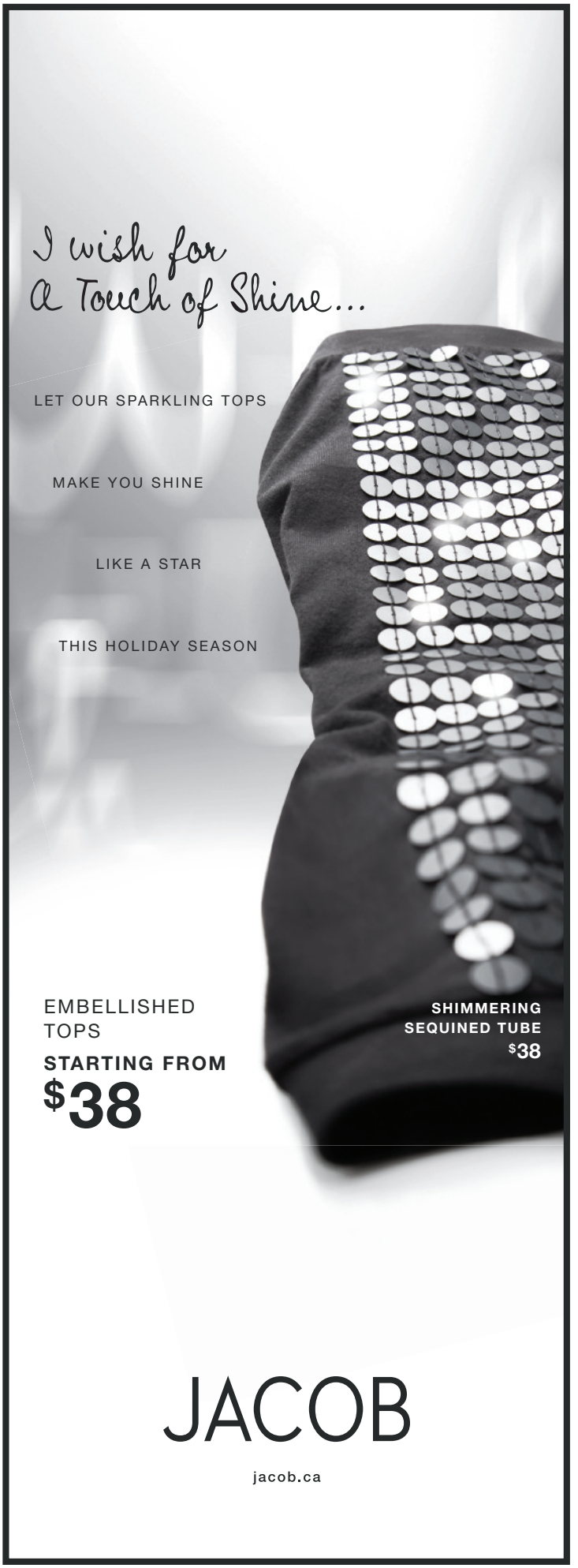


Wildrose Alliance aims at energy issues
Wildrose Alliance says it's launching a task force to develop an energy platform for the next provincial election. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Queue-jumpers just want to survive: Prof

Managing flu anxiety

- On its website, the Ontario Psychological Association has posted a guide from the American Psychological Association called Managing Your Anxiety about H1N1 Flu.
- The list recommends keeping things in perspective, and that while government officials are preparing for possible worst-case scenarios to protect the public that doesn't mean the public has to expect the worst.

Call it flu frenzy.

More reports are surfacing of people jumping the queue to get the vaccine against the H1N1 influenza virus. Hockey players, hospital board members, and students and staff at private colleges have had their shot.

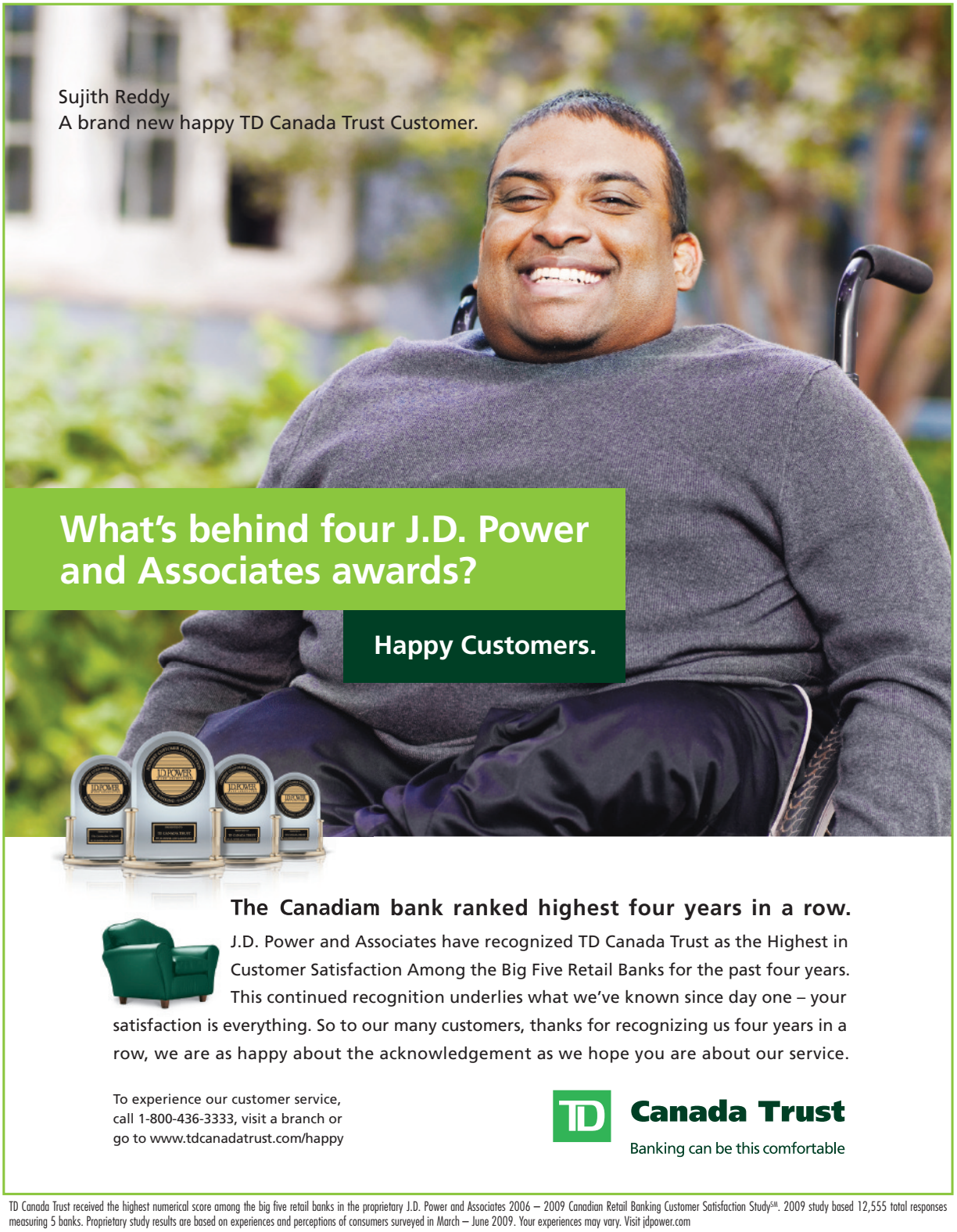
Flu Outbreak

And one expert says it just might be people's survival instinct kicking in. The will to survive might trump all, said Scott Schieman, a University of Toronto sociology prof.

"Part of it probably has to do with just levels of anxiety reaching a certain point where some people sort of feel survival takes priority," he said. "Social norms that typically would provide order and a sense of fairness and help people keep a sense of calm get tossed aside."

Schieman likens it to people driving along the shoulder to cut in front. "When threat levels rise, some people can't keep it together," he added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Expert warns MDs

Flu Outbreak

PANDEMIC Doctors should be cautious about giving Tamiflu to people to prevent them from becoming ill after they've been exposed to H1N1, says an antiviral expert.

Dr. Guy Boivin says people who've been exposed to the virus may already be in the process of becoming ill, and that can foster the emergence of Tamiflu-resistant viruses. The World Health Organization reports 42 cases of Tamiflu-resistant pandemic H1N1 viruses have been seen globally so far.

"I have to admit I would have expected more cases, considering ... the large volume of Tamiflu that has been used," said Boivin, who is based at Laval University in Quebec City.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MPs allege snub over torch relay

PANDEMIC The four opposition MPs for the Halifax area say they have not been invited to any Olympic torch relay events and are blaming the Conservative government for "petty politics."

New Democrat MP Megan Leslie, caucus-mate Peter Stoffer, as well as Liberals Geoff Regan and Mike Savage all said they had not received invitations to see the torch brought in to the city next week.

"I haven't been invited," Leslie told CBC News yesterday.

She said all MPs had gotten a document at the House of Commons outlining where the torch was going throughout the country.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two cities linked over alleged death threats

A tip from a Sarnia, Ont., area resident has led to the arrest of a man in Duncan, B.C., for allegedly making death threats over the Internet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Poll: Quebec alone in gun registry support

Quebecers are alone in wanting to save the long-gun registry, a new poll suggests.

Outside the province, most Canadians aren't convinced the registry has done much to reduce gun crime and appear content to abolish it.

The survey by The Canadian Press Harris-Decima was conducted Nov. 5-8, just after the House of Commons gave approval in principle to a private member's bill aimed at killing the controversial registry.

The bill, sponsored by a Conservative MP with the wholehearted endorsement of the Harper minority government, passed its first hurdle with help from 12 New Democrats, eight Liberals and one Independent. The Bloc Quebecois voted unanimously against abolition and the survey results help explain why.

In Quebec, a majority of respondents — 56 per cent — said they're opposed to abolishing the registry. And 50 per cent said they believed the registry has helped reduce gun crime.

Outside Quebec, it was a different story.

Majorities in Atlantic Canada (50 per cent), British Columbia (51 per cent), Alberta (64 per cent) and Manitoba-Saskatchewan (61 per cent) said it's a good idea to get rid of the registry.

Ontarians were split on the issue, with 42 per cent favouring abolition and 40 per cent opposed.

Almost 61 per cent of Canadians outside Quebec said they believed the gun registry had made no difference in reducing gun crimes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olympics **The Flame sparks young delight**

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Young children cheer yesterday as they see the Olympic Flame in Sheshatshui, N.L. The flame is on a 106-day cross-country relay that will end in Vancouver to mark the start of the 2010 Games.

Toronto body makes new plea to Fraser

CASH The Toronto Port Authority is again turning to the federal auditor general in a bid to silence critics over finances.

Auditor General Sheila Fraser advised the federally-funded authority in September she has no mandate to audit the organization.

But the authority wrote Fraser again yesterday pleading with her to change her mind.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Steele movie in works

Famous a century ago but largely unknown to the public today, a movie is in the works on the life of Sir Samuel Steele — a Canadian icon who through force of character helped put down rebellion in the West, brought law to the Yukon gold rush and led a volunteer calvary regiment during the Boer War in South Africa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Stimulus money ignores jobless regions: Analysis

B.C. Interior's Cariboo region sees serious deterioration, survey shows

Canada's high jobless regions are losing out as billions in federal stimulus money flows into areas that have been spared the worst of the recession, an analysis by The Canadian Press suggests.

In six provinces, areas that benefit most from stimulus spending actually have unemployment rates well below the provincial average.

Stimulus dollars for British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have been poured into regions where workers have been faring comparatively well.

In three other provinces, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Ontario, the stimulus winners do have higher-than-average unemployment — but the favoured regions are still not the very highest in the province when it comes to jobless rates.

And the area that has seen Canada's most serious deterioration in employment — the Cariboo region in the B.C. Interior — has seen no special treatment from the federal stimulus plan.

"We need to look at creating jobs. And I don't see that happening," said Robert Leclerc, president of the Quesnel and District Labour Council in the Cariboo.

"I feel sorry for the pulp mill workers. Who knows what they're going to do?"

Mills in the region have been cutting back or shutting down completely, Leclerc said, and there are more large job cuts pending.

The aim of the federal stimulus program was to "support economic growth and employment this year and next while also bolstering Canada's long-run productive capacity," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said in introducing last January's stimulus budget.

With the government investing and spending across the country, all parts of the economy will benefit from the spinoffs, said Chris Day, spokesman for Transport Minister John Baird. "The entire country has been affected by the global economic recession." THE CANADIAN PRESS

P.E.I.

- Prince Edward Island has only one economic region, based on a standard Statistics Canada economic map, so comparisons within the province can't be made.

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News in brief

REMEMBRANCE The wreaths with gold-embossed purple sashes bear names not seen in other Remembrance Day ceremonies around the country. There's one from CSIS, Canada's spy service, and another from the Communications Security Establishment, the country's electronic eavesdropping agency. Evelyn Davis carried the last wreath laid yesterday during a ceremony at Intrepid Park, a barren patch of grass between Lake Ontario and an industrial park on the border of Whitby and Oshawa in Ontario. It was to remember Camp X, the unofficial name for the Second World War paramilitary training camp and spy school that once occupied the park. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DESECRATION The mayor of Woodstock, Ont., said he was appalled after a swastika was painted on the city's cenotaph, marring the Remembrance Day ceremony. Michael Harding made reference to the vandalism, and called it "truly sacrilegious." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto **We're not gonna take it...**

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nicole Winchester, seen here near a Toronto streetcar depot, has had enough of the Toronto Transit Commission fare hikes and strikes without any upgrade of service in the city's transit system. She has planned a boycott of the TTC this Friday.

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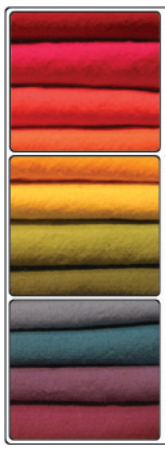

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Father of baby needing heart pleads guilty to aggravated assault, robbery
The father at the centre of a heart transplant drama involving his infant daughter has pleaded guilty to charges stemming from an aggravated assault and robbery. Jason Wallace, 34, pleaded guilty Tuesday to reduced charges of being an accessory after the fact on both counts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Qualification chasm in Ontario boomtown

When most people think BlackBerry, they think of the booming high-tech company Research In Motion Ltd. making billions — an outfit with thousands of employees, easily bankrolling a millionaires' row in its hometown of Waterloo in southwestern Ontario.

And indeed, in Canada's so-called Technology Triangle — the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge — as many as 2,000 high-paying, high-tech jobs are going begging.

But in the region is also registering an unemployment rate of 9.2 per cent, higher than the national average of 8.6 per cent. And even here, there are homeless living on the streets. The number of unemployed has nearly doubled compared to this time last year, with 26,000 people out of jobs compared to 14,500 in 2008.

But there are 1,500 to 2,000 jobs open every day at the approximately 550 companies that inhabit the Technology Triangle.

Why the glaring discrepancy? Though 30,000 people work in the industry, community leaders believe they may have a classic skills mismatch on their hands.

Many of those available, well-paying, high-tech jobs are highly specialized or require significant experience. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Comment

Getting serious about skivvies

Relating

Steve Collins

metronews.ca/collins

The bottomless mysteries of our relationships — and corporate desire to offer a product as the key to those mysteries — results in a lot of dubious data for your delectation.

British papers this week, for example, seriously depleted their supply of punning "pants" headlines and David Beckham underwear shots to report on a study of men's gitch-buying habits and what they tell us about modern couples.

"Study" is a grand word for what was really a customer survey British retailer Debenhams released to the media in hopes of a little publicity and a few sales of underwear.

Among the shocking findings: For most of their lives, guys let women buy their skivvies. The job falls first to their moms, and then girlfriends and wives.

There are, of course, exceptions, and here is where the alleged insight into relationships comes in. Men, according to the crack scientific team at Debenhams, will shell out for new underwear when single, desperately trying to head off a breakup, or looking for a new relationship.

The message from Debenhams might be parsed as thus: Girls, better come in and stock up to ensure your man isn't getting any ideas. If he's purchased some of our quality men's undergarments, thereby making himself irresistible to the ladies, he may be up to something.

There's also a less-than-subtle hint to the single man that perhaps what you need in order to correct that condition is a requisition of underwear, and Debenhams disinterestedly puts the recommended dosage of this cure at somewhere more than 31 pairs per annum.

I'm not sure I follow the logic of this dating strategy. It seems to me that if a potential mate is seeing you in your underwear, things are already going quite well. Certainly, if one is expecting company, a pair without holes is ideal, but beyond that, are brand and vintage really likely to make much difference?

Single women, Debenhams doesn't explicitly say, but would probably agree, might take to patrolling the underwear racks to spot the eligible, though this seems a little sad.

In all, Debenhams' survey tells us little about our relationships apart from the fact that they sell underwear and very much would like to sell more.

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.

Views

Boring investments can be beautiful

InBusiness

Charles Davies

metronews.ca/inbusiness

Perhaps it's a sure sign of broad economic recovery, or maybe it's that longer term thinking is, if only momentarily, trumping the short-term perspective that usually dominates investing.

Whatever the reason, boring bricks-and-mortar type investments have become alluring. Earlier this month, Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway made his "all-in wager on the economic future of the United States" by spending $44 billion US to buy the 77 per cent of Burlington Northern Santa Fe that he didn't already own. The railroad buy is the largest single acquisition in Berkshire Hathaway's history.

Major Canadian investors are also making big bets in primary industries and infrastructure.

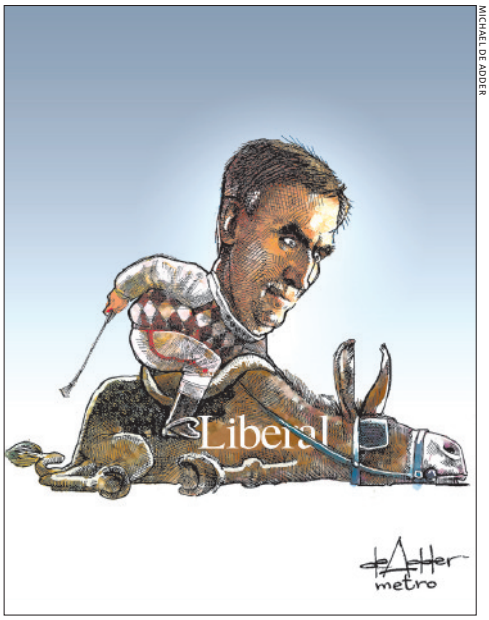
There are several reasons why such straightforward investments are desirable, starting with the fact they're readily understandable and have track records, unlike many technology plays. Fundamental businesses like railroads and health care reflect long-term economic trends — the cost-efficient, even "green," movement of goods in a growing economy in the case of railroads, and the provision of services to a growing older population in the instance of health care.

Infrastructure also has charms. Toll roads, airports, power generation and transmission and ports typically operate in stable regulatory environments and tend to provide steady, inflation-adjusted returns over long periods.

Pension investors like the CPP Investment Board have long had a soft spot for infrastructure investments. By necessity, pension funds have an eye to what their liabilities are going to look like a couple of decades from now, so buying and holding reliable cash generators like airports and roads is helpful.

But even investors with shorter time horizons can benefit from a mix of basic businesses and infrastructure that ensure participation in economic upturns while helping to moderate downturns. Water and sewage companies or roads and tunnels may not be glamorous, but unlike tech darlings or trendy retailers, they'll deliver investment returns year after year.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer who has worked for Canadian and international news organizations.



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New species of dinosaur discovered
A newly discovered dinosaur species that roamed the Earth 200 million years ago may help explain how the creatures evolved into the largest animals on land, scientists in South Africa said yesterday. The Aardonyx celestae was a seven metre-long herbivore. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Anniversary of Arafat's death observed

Tens of thousands crowded around the grave of the late Yasser Arafat yesterday to mark the fifth anniversary of the iconic Palestinian leader's death. Arafat's successor, President Mahmoud Abbas, used the occasion to repeat his refusal to return to talks with Israel until it stops building West Bank settlements. The crowd cheered as the embattled Abbas spoke. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather blamed for massive Brazilian blackout

BRAZIL Heavy rain, lightning and strong winds caused blackouts that left nearly a third of Brazilians — 60 million people — in the dark, officials said yesterday as they scrambled to restore confidence in the country's infrastructure before soccer's 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics.

The weather made transformers on a vital high-voltage transmission line short-circuit, Brazil's energy minister said.

Two other transmission lines also went down as part of an automatic safety mechanism.

"The problem was exclusively with the transmission lines," Energy Minister Edison Lobao said.

The blackout cut electricity to 18 of Brazil's 26 states and left them without power for up to four hours Tuesday night.

The federal district that includes the national capital of Brasilia was spared. About seven million people also lost water service in Sao Paulo. All of Paraguay briefly lost power.

The massive Itaipu dam on the border with Paraguay — the world's second-largest hydroelectric power producer — was completely shut down for the first time in its 25-year history.

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In Brazil's largest cities of Rio and Sao Paulo, people were trapped in elevators, stranded on commuter trains or stuck in sweltering apartments during unusually hot spring temperatures that have hit the 90s.

The Brazilian Olympic Committee would not comment on the blackout, but among the guarantees made to the International Olympic Committee is that Rio will be isolated from the nation's power system exactly to avoid problems like this. The city will have its own direct energy feed during the games.

Analysts said the blackout shows Brazil's lack of investment in the power system at a time when Latin America's largest economy is booming.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Korea warns North

Reportedly deploys backup to disputed sea border where shots were fired Tuesday

South Korea warned it was ready to deter any retaliation by North Korea following the two countries' first naval clash in seven years, reportedly deploying two warships to the disputed sea border yesterday.

The skirmish will not deter Washington from sending an envoy to North Korea, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said, vowing to continue efforts to resolve long-standing disputes over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.

Tuesday's exchange of fire occurred hours before U.S. officials said President Barack Obama had decided to accept a North Korean invitation to send the envoy to Pyongyang for the first direct talks during his administration. The incident sparked speculation that the North was trying to foment tensions to gain a negotiating advantage.

Both sides blamed the other for the two-minute clash in a crab-fishing area off the countries' west coast, where both sides regularly accuse the other of violating the disputed border. North Korea's military demanded that the South apologize.

The South deployed two more navy ships to deal with possible North Korean moves along the disputed western sea border, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported yesterday.

South Korea's National Intelligence Service said the incident could not have been an accidental intrusion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Korean activists shout slogans during a rally denouncing North Korea in Seoul yesterday.

Business as usual

- The naval clash "does not in any way affect our decision" to send nuclear envoy Stephen Bosworth to Pyongyang, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said yesterday. "We think it is an important step that stands on its own."

News in brief

OPRAH A policewoman hailed as a hero in the Fort Hood massacre says the scene was "confusing and chaotic" but that she remembers getting shot. Sgt. Kimberly Munley was one of two civilian police officers who shot at Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, the U.S. Army psychiatrist accused of killing 13 people and wounding 29 at the Texas military base last week. She and Sgt. Mark Todd appeared on yesterday's episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show. Munley, who sustained three gunshot wounds in the confrontation, is out of the hospital after undergoing two surgeries.

DNA Britain said yesterday it plans to keep DNA profiles of innocent people on file for at least six years, despite a European Court ruling branding the retention as a violation of human rights. Britain has one of the largest DNA databases — many of which are unindicted terrorism suspects — in the world, with more than 4.5 million profiles on file, larger than that of the United States.

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New leader sworn in
Jean-Max Bellevire was inaugurated as president of Haiti yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN official calls for fast

Nearly 200 million children in poor countries have stunted growth because they don't get enough to eat, according to a new report published by UNICEF yesterday before a three-day international summit on the problem of world hunger.

The head of the UN food agency, meanwhile, called on the world to join him in a day of fasting ahead of the summit to highlight the plight of one billion hungry people. Jacques Diouf, director general of the Food and Agriculture Organization, said he hoped the fast would encourage action by world leaders who will take part in the meeting at his agency's headquarters starting Monday. More than 90 per cent of those children live in Africa and Asia, and more than a third of all deaths in that age group are linked to undernutrition, according to UNICEF. South Asia is a particular hotspot for the problem, with just Afghanistan, Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan accounting for 83 million hungry children under five.

"Unless attention is paid to addressing the causes of child and maternal undernutrition today, the costs will be considerably higher tomorrow," said UNICEF executive director Ann M. Veneman in a statement.

The UN children's agency called for more strategies like vitamin A supplementation and breast-feeding to be rolled out more widely. That could cut the death rate in kids by up to 15 per cent, UNICEF said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Every six seconds

- Frequency in which a child dies from hunger somewhere in the world, according to a video produced by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Musicians fight coal removal from mountains
A group of music figures has begun a campaign against Appalachian mountaintop coal removal. The campaign, Music Saves Mountains, is sponsored by the Natural Resources Defence Council and the Gibson Foundation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

German man found guilty of killing mother-to-be

TRIAL A 28-year-old German man was found guilty yesterday of murder and sentenced to life in prison for fatally stabbing a pregnant Egyptian in a Dresden courtroom, an attack that triggered outrage in the Muslim world.

The court said in its ruling that because of the particularly brutal nature of the crime, defendant Alexander Wiens would not be eligible for early release.

Security

- Many German courts, including the one where the killing took place, have no security checks at their entrance.

During the trial, Wiens admitted to stabbing Marwa al-Sherbini to death at a July 1 court hearing. Wiens had argued, however, that his actions were not premeditated and that he had no xenophobic motivation.

His attorneys had sought a lesser manslaughter conviction.

Al-Sherbini, a 31-year-old pharmacist, was stabbed at least 16 times by Wiens in the Dresden courtroom where she was to testify against him. She had filed a complaint against him in 2008, accusing him of insulting her with racial slurs, calling her a "terrorist" and an "Islamist" during an altercation.

Prosecutors said the defendant used a kitchen knife with an 18-centimetre blade that he had brought into the courtroom in a backpack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brown pelican off endangered list

WILDLIFE Much like its death-defying dives for fish, the brown pelican has resurfaced after plummeting to the brink of extinction.

Interior Department officials announced Wednesday that they were taking the bird off the U.S. government's endangered species list after a struggle of almost four decades to keep the brown pelican population afloat.

The bird, now prevalent across Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific coasts and the Caribbean was declared an endangered species in 1970, after its population was devastated by the use of the pesticide DDT. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Star dog trainer killed

Mark Stover was a dog-trainer-to-the-stars in the Seattle area. He taught obedience to the pets of Pearl Jam and Nirvana and Starbucks chairman Howard Schultz. He also trained his own dog, Dingo — for protection.

But when Stover's killer came last month, there was nothing Dingo could do.

She was shot in the face, but survived. When deputies arrived, the only signs of her master were smears of blood in a downstairs bedroom and hallway.

Investigators have yet to find Stover's body, but prosecutors have charged his ex-wife's boyfriend with murder in a case that may have stemmed from their divorce two years ago.

Stover's friends said they knew little about the breakup but believed he had moved on and was engaged to another woman when he disappeared.

"We never talked about that — just about the dogs," said Anacortes police animal control officer Marie Padovan. "Dogs that were uncontrollable would go to Mark and they could be controlled. It's a big loss for all of us dog people."

Stover, 57, and ex-wife Linda Opdycke, 45, opened Island Dog Adventures in the early 1990s on an island her wealthy family owned 90 kilometres north of Seattle.

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Precious metal's value soars

A new gold rush is on.

The price of the precious metal is soaring, hitting a record $1,119 US an ounce yesterday — confounding market analysts who thought there was no way gold would remain so expensive when it first cracked the unheard-of $1,000 mark last year.

$1,119US
Gold has hit a record high price of US$1,119 an ounce.

The remarkable run has implications far beyond savvy investors. In New York's diamond district, more people started showing up late last year to sell their gold, and the crush hasn't let up, said Anthony Iannelli, owner of Iannelli Diamonds.

"They're bringing in jewelry from the '70s and '80s they don't wear anymore," he said. "They're following the news and see prices are high. They realize they have a little cache, and want to take it out of the vault."

Typically, gold is a safe place for investors to park their money, not something they buy to make money. It doesn't earn any interest, and because it's always sought-after, its value tends to be fairly stable.

For example, when gold first reached $1,000 it was in March 2008, shortly after the collapse of investment bank Bear Stearns. Investors bought it up then because they feared for the stability of the financial system.

This time is different. Investors — think of them as the '09ers — are buying gold to protect themselves against the falling U.S. dollar.

Currencies are weak investments around the world because of record-low interest rates. Foreign banks that hold substantial amounts of U.S. debt, such as China's, want to diversify their holdings.

News earlier this month that India's central bank bought nearly $7 billion worth of gold from the International Monetary Fund triggered a frenzy of gold buying. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chavez accused of aiding leftist Colombian rebels

VENEZUELA A prominent opponent of President Hugo Chavez accused the socialist leader's government yesterday of turning a blind eye to leftist Colombian rebels taking refuge in border areas of Venezuela.

Tachira state Gov. Cesar Perez said both leftist guerrillas and rightist paramilitary groups from Colombia operate in nearly a third of his border state, but he said Venezuelan troops ignore the rebels and try to root out only the right-wing militias.

"The guerrillas are there with the government's blessing and the military has orders to leave them alone," Perez told The Associated Press in an interview. "The government only fights the paramilitaries, and I think it's good they fight them, but the government has to do the same with the guerrillas, and it isn't doing that."

Chavez has long denied aiding Colombian rebels, saying his government remains neutral in Colombia's decades-long armed conflict. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bonuses upset army families

UNITED KINGDOM Families of soldiers killed and injured in Afghanistan were quick to respond yesterday to news that bureaucrats at the British Ministry of Defence have received bonuses of over 47 million pounds ($78 million) in the last seven months.

The Ministry of Defence has been criticized for sending troops to fight in Afghanistan without proper equipment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Missouri cops search for bodies

5 family members arrested

Authorities yesterday were searching a rural property in western Missouri for bodies and buried glass jars containing notes written more than 15 years ago by children who may have documented sexual abuse by five members of their own family.

Lafayette County Sheriff Kerrick Alumbaugh pleaded for the public's help, saying investigators "believe that there are other victims out there, and we believe people in the public can give us more information."

> **"There has been an indication that there are body or bodies in numerous locations."**
> Kerrick Alumbaugh, Lafayette County sheriff

Alumbaugh said authorities believe there may be bodies buried on the property outside Bates City, which is about 48 kilometres east of Kansas City. He refused to say to whom any of the bodies would have belonged.

A small excavator could be seen moving across the property yesterday. Two ambulances were parked nearby, and crews were searching a creek with metal detectors.

"There has been an indication that there are body or bodies in numerous locations," Alumbaugh said.

The five men were arrested Tuesday and are charged with several felonies, including forcible sodomy, rape with a child younger than 12 and use of a child in a sexual performance.

The allegations, which include bestiality and forcing an 11-year-old to have an abortion, date from 1988 to 1995.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quarter of traffic police fired in Mexican city

CLEANUP Mexico's third-largest city has fired almost a quarter of its traffic police for failing tests designed to detect corruption and ineptitude.

And half of Monterrey's traffic cops were ordered to undergo more training after performing poorly on the tests. Only a bit more than a quarter were found to be completely fit for the job.

The purge of traffic cops in the northern Mexican city is the latest step taken to clean up its police force. More than 100 Monterrey police officers have been detained this year on suspicion of links to organized crime.

All 1,142 traffic cops in the city were pulled off duty for 10 days starting Oct. 31 to take medical, mental aptitude and drug tests. The city also investigated whether the officers were living within their means.

Mayor Fernando Larrazabal said Tuesday that 276 officers and administrative officials were fired for failing the exams, 526 officers who performed poorly were ordered to undergo more training, and 340 were determined fit for the job.

The city did not give a breakdown of how many of the five exams the fired officers failed, although Larrazabal said only six failed anti-doping tests.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

GITMO A man from Tajikistan seeking his freedom from the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is challenging a practice among federal judges at the U.S. Courthouse in Washington, who in some instances are short-circuiting the cases of longtime detainees. In the case of Umar Hamzayevich Abdulayev, U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton halted action on the detainee's case after the government approved a transfer of Abdulayev to Tajikistan, where the detainee says he would be persecuted if sent there.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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OPEC revises 2010 crude demand

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries revised its 2010 global crude demand up to 85.07 million barrels per day yesterday — 75,000 barrels per day higher than its assessment last month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Economy boosts digital media

Whether it's Sit or Squat, a mobile guide to public washrooms sponsored by the makers of Charmin' bathroom tissue, or Apple Students, a Facebook site sponsored by the computer maker with 1.4 million followers, new forms of digital marketing and advertising are gaining ground.

The recession has accelerated the trend as consumer packaged goods firms and retailers look for more cost-effective ways to get their message across, joining technology firms who were earlier adopters of new media, according to a new survey by Ipsos Reid.

However, Canadian companies remain challenged by their lack of knowledge about these new forms of advertising, Ipsos-Reid president Steve Levy said yesterday. And mobile applications are hampered by Canada's costly and uncompetitive mobile communications infrastructure, he added.

"Digital media is gaining momentum," Levy told a digital marketing conference in Toronto. "The recession is absolutely playing a part, fuelling the move to online marketing."

When advertisers and their agencies were asked about their spending intentions for next year, 80 per cent said they planned to spend more on online media, 57 per cent mentioned email and 46 per cent were looking at more mobile applications.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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In brief

BUYOUT Alimentation Couche-Tard announced plans yesterday to partner with Shell Oil to operate 100 convenience stores in Chicago. The deal, which is expected to close by the end of 2009, is subject to final approvals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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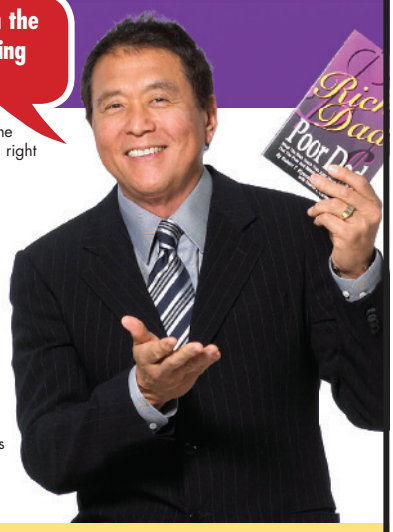

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Shoppers' profits increase
Shoppers Drug Mart Corp. says profits moved higher in the third-quarter as more people filled their prescriptions at the retailer, helping drive up overall sales from a year earlier. The Toronto-based company reported net income of $171 million or 79 cents per share for the quarter ended Sept. 30. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Slow healing expected for hit housing

The real estate market didn't fall as hard or as fast in Canada as it did in the U.S., but some spots did suffer steep losses and a recovery will be slow as investors worry about another potential economic dip, a new report suggests.

Total losses in value across Canada will average between 10 to 20 per cent compared to the highs of two years ago, according to the study by PricewaterhouseCoopers and the Urban Land Institute. But some areas saw a much deeper drop. The report released yesterday predicts a slow recovery to begin by the end of next year.

"For 2010, we are rating only fair investment outlooks for most property types and predict generally weak conditions for development," said Chris Potter of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The annual Emerging Trends in Real Estate 2009 report is based on surveys of more than 900 real estate investors, developers, lenders, brokers and consultants in both Canada and the U.S. It shows Canadian real estate investors are still worried about more potential economic shocks, particularly from the U.S. financial system. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Condos OK

- The report forecasts a relatively stable market for developments such as condos, hotels and other developments, which will favour buyers over sellers.

World Bank president says U.S. recovery threatened

ECONOMY Stubbornly high joblessness threatens to trigger loan defaults and drag on consumption next year, hobbling a U.S. economy struggling to rebound from recession, World Bank president Robert Zoellick said yesterday.

Zoellick warned that the U.S. unemployment rate, which jumped to a 26-year high of 10.2 per cent in October, will likely remain elevated in 2010.

"People won't be able to pay their mortgages." Robert Zoellick

"You're going to have problems with delinquencies of credit card loans, consumer loans, people won't be able to pay their mortgages," Zoellick told reporters in Singapore.

"Some banks are going to continue to be troubled by bad loans."

Government stimulus spending will likely fuel economic growth through the middle of next year, Zoellick said. After that, consumer spending and business investment must take the baton to boost expansion, he said.

"If you've got large scale unemployment, if you've got consumers rebuilding savings and deleveraging, I don't think the consumer is going to play that role," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

RISK The EU warned yesterday that eurozone governments who make no effort to curb debt and deficit to agreed limits are posing a risk to the wider 16-nation currency area. EU Economy Commissioner Joaquin Almunia singled out Greece's "serious problems" with its worsening economy and finances, saying they were "also a question of common concern for the whole euro area." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Zambrano's mother rescued

The mother of former major league pitcher Victor Zambrano has been rescued after a three-day kidnapping ordeal, Venezuelan authorities said yesterday. Elizabeth Mendez Zambrano, 56, was rescued late Tuesday during a "commando-style operation" in the central state of Aragua, police said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Junior is back again

Ken Griffey Jr., left, and the Mariners have agreed to another one-year contract that will keep the popular player in Seattle next year. Griffey, who turns 40 on Nov. 21, is likely to again be a part-time designated hitter in his 22nd season in the major leagues. Griffey is No. 5 on the career home run list with 630.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Suicide stuns Germany

SOCCER The suicide death of Robert Enke left Germany stunned yesterday, sending the soccer-obsessed country into mourning and leaving the national team without its top goalkeeper for next year's World Cup.

Robert Enke

Enke's widow appeared at a news conference, broadcast live throughout the country, saying her husband battled depression for years before he stepped onto the tracks and got hit by an express train Tuesday evening not far from his home.

Hundreds of people filed into Marktkirche, a Lutheran church, yesterday evening to attend a religious service and then march silently to Hannover's soccer stadium to honour Enke, who was the local club's captain.

Enke had a good chance of being Germany's starting goalkeeper at next year's World Cup in South Africa.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Headshots issue heating up for GMs

The NHL's general managers are getting closer to making a recommendation about how to curb headshots.

The league's 30 GMs and their assistants wrapped up meetings with a discussion of the issue yesterday and decided to formulate a small committee to take a closer look at it before they get together again in March.

At that time, it's thought the group might be in a position to make a recommendation to the competition committee about a possible rule change. The GMs have discussed hits to the head in the past, but there was a change in the tone of conversation this time around.

"It was quite a bit different, some of the guys who have taken a strong position that it may take hitting out of the game have adjusted their views a little bit," said Carolina Hurricanes GM Jim Rutherford. "If we continue down what was talked about today then we will see a change.

"It will be on the agenda of the next meeting and I think if we got the direction that it appeared we were going, you will see a change for next year."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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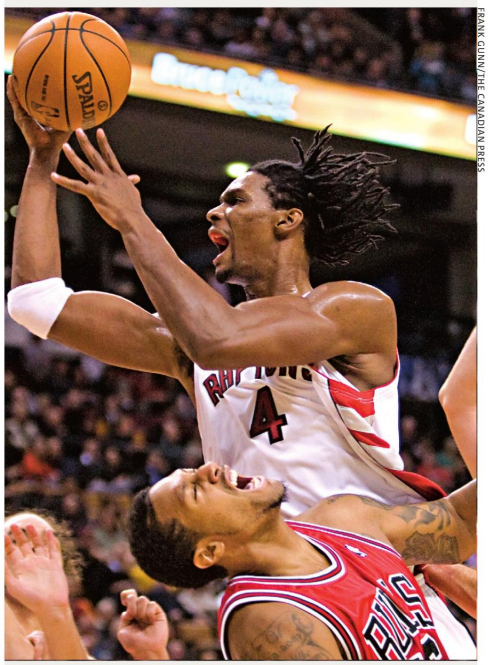
Raptors Bosh's battles



FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh drives through Chicago Bulls forward James Johnson during last night's NBA action in Toronto. Bosh finished with 28 points as the Raptors defeated the Bulls 99-89.

Seven Lions named to all-star squad

CFL Veteran receiver Geroy Simon was among seven B.C. Lions selected as CFL West Division all-stars.

Rookie running back Martell Mallett, defensive tackle Aaron Hunt, linebacker Anton McKenzie, defensive back Korey Banks, special-teams dynamo Jason Arakgi and safety Barron Simpson, who led the CFL in interceptions, were the others.

The Alouettes, who posted a CFL-best 15-3 record, led all teams with 17 selections.

Voting was conducted by members of the Football Reporters of Canada, CFL head coaches and fans.

The league all-stars will be unveiled Nov. 17.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

TYSON Mike Tyson allegedly hit a photographer at Los Angeles International Airport and was detained on suspicion of battery yesterday, police said. The paparazzo told police that Tyson struck him once, an airport police spokesman said. The photographer fell to the ground and was treated for a cut to his forehead at a hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GIANTS Kevin Connauton and Neil Manning each had a goal and an assist as the Vancouver Giants scored five unanswered goals and beat the Chilliwack Bruins 5-1 in Western Hockey League action yesterday. Lance Bouma, Nathan Burns and Mike Piluso also had goals for the Giants, who scored four times in the third period.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kovalchuk still out

Atlanta Thrashers star Ilya Kovalchuk's return from a foot injury will have to wait at least one more game. Team spokesman Rob Koch said Kovalchuk did not accompany the Thrashers to New York yesterday for tonight's game against the Rangers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canucks ninth-most valuable: Forbes

The Vancouver Canucks are the NHL's ninth most-valuable team, according to Forbes magazine's annual survey.

The ranking was topped, for the fourth straight year, by the Toronto Maple Leafs, which are worth $470 million — almost twice the Canucks.

The New York Rangers, at $416 million, finished second.

The original six franchises are in the top seven, with only Philadelphia at No. 5 breaking that monopoly. Montreal is third ($339 million), followed by Detroit ($337 million), Philadelphia ($273 million), Boston ($271 million) and Chicago ($258 million).

The Canucks ($239 million) were the next highest Canadian team coming in at ninth. Calgary ($200 million) was 16th; Ottawa ($197) 17th; and Edmonton ($166 million) — the lowest-valued Canadian team — at 24th. Chicago has the biggest rise in value, up 26 per cent, followed by Washington at 15 per cent to $183 million.

The Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins rank 11th at $222 million.

The average value of the 30 teams is $223 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NHL

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d-New Jersey	16	12	4	0	24
d-Buffalo	15	10	4	1	21
Pittsburgh	18	12	6	0	24
N.Y. Rangers	18	10	7	1	21
Philadelphia	14	9	4	1	19
Ottawa	15	8	5	2	18
Boston	17	8	7	2	18
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N.Y. Islanders	18	6	6	6	18
Tampa Bay	15	6	4	5	17
Montreal	18	8	10	0	16
Atlanta	14	7	6	1	15
Florida	15	5	9	1	11
Toronto	16	3	8	5	11
Carolina	17	2	12	3	7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	PT
d-San Jose	19	13	4	2	28
d-Colorado	18	12	4	2	26
d-Columbus	17	9	6	2	20
Los Angeles	19	11	6	2	24
Calgary	16	11	4	1	23
Chicago	16	9	5	2	20
Phoenix	17	10	7	0	20
Dallas	17	7	4	6	20
—					
VANCOUVER	19	10	9	0	20
Detroit	16	8	5	3	19
Edmonton	19	8	9	2	18
St. Louis	16	6	6	4	16
Nashville	16	7	8	1	15
Anaheim	16	6	8	2	14
Minnesota	17	7	10	0	14

YESTERDAY

Buffalo 3 Edmonton 1
New Jersey 3 Anaheim 1
Washington 5 N.Y. Islanders 4 (SO)
Los Angeles 5 Carolina 2
Detroit 9 Columbus 1
Colorado at Chicago

TODAY

Florida at Boston
Atlanta at N.Y. Rangers
Ottawa at Philadelphia
New Jersey at Pittsburgh
Minnesota at Tampa Bay
VANCOUVER at Detroit
Nashville at St. Louis
Montreal at Phoenix
Dallas at San Jose

d - division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	8	1	.889	-
Philadelphia	4	4	.500	3.5
Toronto	4	4	.500	3.5
New York	1	8	.111	7
New Jersey	0	8	.000	7.5

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	6	1	.857	-
Atlanta	6	2	.750	.5
Orlando	6	2	.750	.5
Charlotte	3	4	.429	3
Washington	2	6	.250	4.5

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	3	2	.600	-
Cleveland	4	3	.571	-
Chicago	4	4	.500	.5
Indiana	3	3	.500	.5
Detroit	3	4	.429	1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Dallas	5	2	.714	-
Houston	4	3	.571	1
San Antonio	3	3	.500	1.5
New Orleans	3	5	.375	2.5
Memphis	1	7	.125	4.5

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Denver	6	2	.750	-
Portland	5	3	.625	1
Oklahoma City	3	4	.429	2.5
Utah	3	5	.375	3
Minnesota	1	7	.125	5

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Phoenix	7	1	.875	-
L.A. Lakers	6	1	.857	.5
Sacramento	4	4	.500	3
L.A. Clippers	3	5	.375	4
Golden State	2	5	.286	4.5

YESTERDAY

Toronto 99 Chicago 89
Atlanta 114 New York 101
Boston 105 Utah 86
Indiana 108 Golden State 94
Philadelphia 82 New Jersey 79
Charlotte at Detroit
Denver at Milwaukee
Cleveland at Orlando
Portland at Minnesota
Memphis at Houston
Dallas at San Antonio
New Orleans at Phoenix
Oklahoma City at L.A. Clippers

TODAY

Cleveland at Miami
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers

NFL

AFC

EAST

	W	L	T	PCT
New England	6	2	0	.750
N.Y. Jets	4	4	0	.500
Miami	3	5	0	.375
Buffalo	3	5	0	.375

SOUTH

	W	L	T	PCT
Indianapolis	8	0	0	1.000
Houston	5	4	0	.556
Jacksonville	4	4	0	.500
Tennessee	2	6	0	.250

NORTH

	W	L	T	PCT
Cincinnati	6	2	0	.750
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750
Baltimore	4	4	0	.500
Cleveland	1	7	0	.125

WEST

	W	L	T	PCT
Denver	6	2	0	.750
San Diego	5	3	0	.625
Oakland	2	6	0	.250
Kansas City	1	7	0	.125

NFC

EAST

	W	L	T	PCT
Dallas	6	2	0	.750
Philadelphia	5	3	0	.625
N.Y. Giants	5	4	0	.556
Washington	2	6	0	.250

SOUTH

	W	L	T	PCT
New Orleans	8	0	0	1.000
Atlanta	5	3	0	.625
Carolina	3	5	0	.375
Tampa Bay	1	7	0	.125

NORTH

	W	L	T	PCT
Minnesota	7	1	0	.875
Green Bay	4	4	0	.500
Chicago	4	4	0	.500
Detroit	1	7	0	.125

WEST

	W	L	T	PCT
Arizona	5	3	0	.625
San Francisco	3	5	0	.375
Seattle	3	5	0	.375
St. Louis	1	7	0	.125

TODAY

Chicago at San Francisco

SUNDAY

Buffalo at Tennessee
Denver at Washington
Tampa Bay at Miami
Jacksonville at N.Y. Jets
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
New Orleans at St. Louis
Atlanta at Carolina
Detroit at Minnesota
Kansas City at Oakland
Dallas at Green Bay
Philadelphia at San Diego
Seattle at Arizona
New England at Indianapolis

MONDAY

Baltimore at Cleveland

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Metro Homes

Recycled home

Mark and Sally Bailey illustrate the potential of reused objects in their book Recycled Home. Indigo, $33.95, chapters.indigo.ca.

EMMA YARDLEY/FOR METRO CANADA

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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'Rare and unique'

Intracorp Spruces up Fairview neighbourhood

A new collection of 49 boutique homes in Fairview answers the strong demand for a new development in that part of Vancouver, the project's developer says.

Intracorp's latest development, Spruce, is a limited collection of residences in a striking glass-and-concrete tower at Broadway and Spruce.

Bordered on all sides by thriving neighbourhoods, Fairview is one of the most compelling addresses in town. It's near Granville Island, the new Olympic Village, the waterfront and South Granville. It's also just a quick jump across the bridges to downtown.

The boutique homes have nine-foot ceilings, expansive windows, stone slab countertops and engineered hardwood floors for early buyers. According to Intracorp, these homes are "rare and unique" for this part of the city.

> **"Fairview is one of the most compelling addresses in town."**

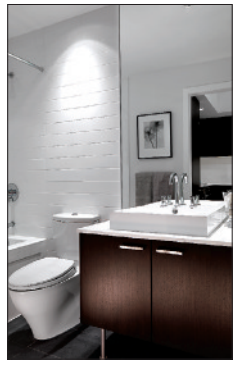
The company also says that with Spruce, it aims to create a "stunning new presence" in Fairview at a time when home value in the neighbourhood is on the rise.

The Spruce Presentation Centre is located at 1595 W. Broadway at Fir, on the second floor. It opens this Saturday at 10 a.m.

FOR METRO VANCOUVER

More info

- Intracorp's portfolio of in-town properties includes Ventana in North Van, the Jacobsen Lofts at South Main, and Pintura and Camera in South Granville.



See here are some shots from Intracorp's Spruce development in Fairview.

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Got cold feet on basement flooring? Good

HomeScape

Sylvia Putz

metronews.ca/homescape

The vision of hardwood flooring in the basement may tantalize, but here's one time when sitting on the fence to mull over the nature of basements isn't a bad thing.

For example, think back to that basement flood when the sump pump failed. Reflect upon the wetness that occasionally seeps in through your basement walls and floor when it rains a lot. What if the sewage backed up?

Luckily, for your average concrete basement floor, the biggest problem is plain old moisture. And I don't necessarily mean streams of it — just steady drips, dampness and excess humidity.

Consider the fact that basements are built directly upon or next to soil, which is cold and damp, and also makes the concrete walls and floors cold. When warm interior air hits the cold surface of basement walls and floors, it condenses, producing wetness in your basement.

To make matters worse, concrete floors are porous, and hydrostatic pressure can cause water to come through the concrete slab and onto the basement floor at times of heavy rain, especially if you've got cracks.

The bottom line in a basement is don't go with flooring that will be ruined by wetness because it is almost always present at one time or another.

If you're considering how to finish the floor in your basement, here are some sage words of advice.

- If you've got leak in the basement, fix it before you put down any flooring.
- Porcelain or ceramic tile, applied directly to a clean, flat and dry concrete surface, works well in a basement. It can be cleaned easily too.
- Use a de-humidifier to keep the basement as dry as possible.
- A garage-floor-type epoxy paint works well too, and sponging or other painting effects can create the look of stone. Cleanable.
- Be cautious about laying carpet directly on the concrete floor because it will readily grow mould between the naturally damp basement floor and the carpet, and this can result in that typical mouldy basement smell. Be sure to use appropriate underlay materials, and even with that in place, be prepared to replace carpeting every once in a while, especially after any episodes of excessive moisture in the basement. Rubber-backed carpet tiles may be helpful because they can be selectively removed and replaced.

Take a moment to think about moisture before you install basement flooring.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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Pakistan fashion week
Last week Pakistan's top designers and models took part in the country's first-ever fashion week. The four-day event, which was postponed twice due to security fears, took place in Karachi, the country's largest and most cosmopolitan city. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Style

Charmed by Barbie

Thomas Sabo has introduced a new collection inspired by the ultimate "Charm Girl" — Barbie. The collection, called Barbie Cult, includes a sparkling variety of sterling silver charms in various forms such as a poodle, nail polish bottle, purse, shoe, lipstick and much more. Each charm is sold separately, ranging in price from $45 to $89. The charms are availale across Canada at European Jewellry stores. You can also visit thomassabo.com for availability by location. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

No more plain Jane

The Mary Jane upgrades her style and versatility

TREND Traditionally, Mary Jane shoes were worn by young girls for formal wear. But today's wide variety make it clear that this strappy footwear is all grown up and intended for women only.

From sequin and stud-adorned to the modern platform styles in bright hues and patent leather, the Mary Janes of today exhibit a versatility never seen before.

Here's a selection that varies from a typical day at the office (see Le Chateau's ribbon shoe or Feet First's blue suede pair) to a night out on the town (see Town Shoes' flowered stiletto or Aldo's sequin-adorned pumps).

METRO NEWS SERVICE

Studded Mary Jane, Winners ($79.99)

Kelis Dagger Mary Jane with flower embellishment, Town Shoes ($269)

Grey Mary Jane with ribbon, Le Chateau ($59.95).

Blue suede Mary Jane, Feet First ($99.99)

Silver sparkle Mary Jane, Aldo ($70). Visit aldoshoes.com.

Red patent leather Mary Jane, Spring ($44.99). Visit myspringshoes.com.

GETTY IMAGES

Madonna rocks the Mary Jane trend with three-strapped black platform pumps

Roots, Tabi unveil heritage collections

With the Vancouver Olympics on the horizon, consumer appetite for patriotic apparel will undoubtedly grow as sports lovers and fashion fans seek out duds that boast Canadian colours and symbols to show their national pride.

While the Hudson's Bay Company creates the officially sanctioned clothing line for Canada's athletes at the 2010 Games, unveiled last month, other homegrown retailers are forging their own paths in celebration of Canadiana by releasing heritage-inspired lines.

The Canada Collection by Roots melds influences of Canadian history with the brand's varsity look and athletic heritage. The line includes tuques, scarves, watches, hoodies and hockey jerseys in a vintage-inspired palette of red, white, charcoal and grey mixes.

Tabi is also tapping into the winter sports domain with its limited edition collection of apparel and accessories.

The womenswear retailer zeroed in on hockey, curling and skating for their Olympic-inspired sweaters. It's also releasing an "Everything Canadian" vest featuring a collage of Canadian iconography, ranging from beavers and bears to the Mounties.

Tabi also teamed up with

Angela Moore limited edition Canada 2010 bracelet ($69). Available at tabi.ca.

American jewelry designer Angela Moore on a limited edition hand-painted line of earrings, necklaces and bracelets, including pieces which depict winter sports such as skiing and bobsledding along with the Maple Leaf. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snakeskin as animal-print option

ALTERNATIVE Skin is in — snakeskin, that is.

Whether it's bags, boots or blouses, the marbled, textured snakeskin look seems to be fashion's new favourite alternative to more traditional animal prints.

It's not that snake — which, except at the very highest price points, is actually embossed leather or fabric in a snakeskin pattern — is new, but it seems fresher than now-ubiquitous leopard and cheetah spots.

Andrea Linett, creative director at Lucky magazine, predicts snake will hold on to that feeling of uniqueness even after being featured on many recent designer runways, including Alexander McQueen, Gucci, Kris Van Assche, Matthew Williamson and Herve Leger. Carolina Herrera's fully beaded rope-weave print shorts for spring had the effect of snakeskin gone glam.

There's a lot to be done with the snakeskin look, Linett says, and it easily navigates back and forth between sexy, edgy and classic.

"A snakeskin boot can be rock 'n' roll if it's in a rock 'n' roll shape, or it's classic if it's in a lady shape," Linett says. Other trends don't always have that privilege, she notes: Metal studs, for example, scream rock 'n' roll or a skirt suit announces a lady.

Snake-print metallic clutch, Smart Set ($28).

Snakeskin is "beautiful, rich and earthy," says Abbe Held, creative director of Kooba, known best as a handbag line. Because the surface is textured, there are highs and lows of colour, which instantly adds interest and dimension.

Held explains that she works with printed lambskin that's been cut by the tanner to create the scales that also help the leather hold up well over time. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YSL tops Forbes list

Fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent has beaten Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley to the position of top earning dead celebrity, according to Forbes's 2009 rankings. In total, Saint Laurent earned US $350 million. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Snakeskin as exotic animal-print option

Skin is in — snakeskin, that is. Whether it's bags, boots or blouses, the marbled, textured snakeskin look seems to be fashion's new favourite alternative

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Held explains that she works with printed lambskin that's been cut by the tanner to create the scales that also help the leather hold up well over time. The vintage vibe is also part of the appeal, she says. "It's neutral yet has so much character and personality."

"We're doing a lot of business on snakeskin, in shoes and handbags, especially," says Macy's group vice-president of ready-to-wear fashion Nicole Fischelis. The skin look complements strappy sandals and soft-shape bags, she notes, and a new twist is using a simulated snake print on leggings and tights.

Fischelis puts python in the same category of popularity with alligator- and crocodile-skin looks. "It's the fusion of things — the colours, the graphics, that you can wear it with dresses or sportswear — that makes it more interesting."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snake-print metallic clutch, Smart Set ($28).

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Dave Grohl's blind date
Dave Grohl formed his latest band through a musical "blind date." He asked the members of Them Crooked Vultures — guitarist Josh Homme and bassist John Paul Jones — to meet him at a medieval banquet to see if they could work together. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Sticking around
Aerosmith singer Steven Tyler appeared on stage with the Joe Perry Project at a show in New York Tuesday night and announced to the crowd that he is "not leaving Aerosmith." EW.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

🌐🌐🌐🌐 A CLASSIC; 🌐🌐🌐 EXCELLENT; 🌐🌐 GOOD; 🌐 FAIR; 🌐 POOR

Stale anthems suit Bon Jovi

Bon Jovi

Album: The Circle
Label: Universal
Rating: 🌐🌐

TRUE COUNTRY FANS can rejoice. Jon Bon Jovi has turned his back on them after reaping platinum profits from Lost Highway, his 2007 over-the-top foray into Nashville. Unfortunately, their loss is anthem rock's gain as Jon Bon Jovi returns to his witless style of stadium rock that gave bandanas and mullets a bad name. He reaffirms his unchallenged ability to make even the freshest cliché sound stale. Who but Bon Jovi could sing a power anthem as profoundly titled as Live Before You Die? And no one but Bon Jovi would even think of building angst and social spirituality into a question like "what is the distance between a bullet and a gun?" (honest, check out track 5, Bullet). Mr. Springsteen, please let your fellow Jersey rocker know that working class doesn't mean brain dead. It's such a waste of a good guitarist. Still, it doesn't matter. The Circle will sell a gazillion and Bon Jovi will be back on TV taking his rightful place as mentor to the American Idols.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Blue Rodeo

Album: The Things We Left Behind **Label:** Warner
Rating: 🌐🌐🌐🌐½

IT'S TOO EASY to take the songwriting of Greg Keelor and Jim Cuddy for granted. Over the past 25 years, they've become like a warm and comfortable shoe to fans of Canadian roots rock. Yet, on this new 16-song, double CD, Keelor and Cuddy prove they remain unequalled at what they do. This is an ambitious album without being over-bearing or jarringly experimental like 2002's Palace of Gold. Keelor pays homage to his taste for '60s psychedelia on epic production numbers like Million Miles, with its Who-like harmonies, and Venus Rising, the album's extended guitar closer. And there's plenty for fans of Cuddy's gentler balladry on tracks like Arizona Dust. Although Blue Rodeo has lost full-time keyboard player Bob Packwood, The Things We Left Behind does not deteriorate into a jangling guitar album. There are dozens of young bands trying to put their mark on a distinctly new Canadian alt-country sound. Unfortunately, they need look no further than this album to find it.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Bon Jovi returns to anthem rock sound on new album The Circle.

The Cribs

Album: Ignore the Ignorant
Label: Warner
Rating: 🌐🌐🌐🌐

THE GREAT BIG gob of feedback that appears somewhere around the eight second mark of the first track, signals one thing — Johnny Marr came to play. And play he does. The former Smiths' guitarist's signature sound flies all over this superb album from West Yorkshire alt-rock punks The Cribs. There are moments on this album, especially the six-minute-long City of Bugs, that rival the double guitar eloquence of Television's new wave masterpiece Marquee Moon. And if you can't take the feedback, there's also the radio friendly Cheat on Me. It's the perfect combination of British punk snarl and art school airs. Marr, best known in recent years for his work with Modest Mouse, has found a second home with The Cribs. This is not just a passing fancy. Marr has co-writing credits on each of the twelve tracks and is an acknowledged full member of the band. It'll be interesting to see if Marr can keep both projects on the go.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Massari

Album: Forever Massari
Label: Universal
Rating: 🌐🌐🌐

CANADA'S MORE KNOWN for its rock scene, but it's an R&B singer who could be the country's next big export. The Stittsville Ont.-based artist's 2006 debut went gold and his followup Forever Massari, is sure to be an even bigger hit. The record is full of smooth club anthems — it's not butt-shaking bass type of tunes, but rather, calm, silky odes to the ladies. Most of the music works, the melodies are infectious, and lyrics aren't crude — but he likes to repeat his choruses a little too much. Still, there's no way Massari won't break out.

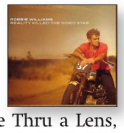
Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Album Reviews

music@metronews.ca

Robbie Williams

Album: Reality Killed the Radio Star **Label:** EMI
Rating: 🌐🌐½



IT'S BEEN 12 years since Robbie Williams's hugely popular debut Life Thru a Lens, and while he's had hits since, nothing's quite lived up to that record. His last disc was a flop, and his latest isn't going to do much better. Reality Killed the Video Star is a cheeky title, but including other eye-rolling phrases like this throughout the disc may not have been such a great idea. The music is relatively safe and radio-friendly, but there's nothing here that's as compelling as Lazy Days.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

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HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Steve Cochrane, left, Phyllis Ellis, Steve Morana from Three Chords From The Truth on CMT, are pictured in this undated handout photo. Ellis hopes that a Gemini nod could have the power of a resurrection. Her show, Three Chords from the Truth, is one of several heading into Saturday's awards celebrating Canada's best television already cancelled, but she says that critical recognition is still important to her.

Hitting the wrong pitch

Despite being nominated for two Geminis, CMT show still finds itself being cancelled

Phyllis Ellis is hoping a Gemini award could have the power of a resurrection.

Despite being cancelled after only 10 episodes, Ellis's Three Chords From the Truth is up for two awards, including best comedy program, at the ceremony celebrating Canada's homegrown TV talent this weekend.

Ellis says it's fantastic to hear her show's name bandied about again after it was unsuccessful at finding an audience on CMT.

"It's really nice to have a little revival of even the name of the show, people talking about it again, and knowing that our work had value. It's a real honour," she said.

"It would be great if it had an opportunity to be seen. It was aired very late at night and I think most people were asleep," she said with a laugh.

CBC funnyman Ron James will host the awards, which are set to air Saturday on Global and Showcase.

The leading nominee is the CTV cop drama Flashpoint, which is up for a record 19 trophies. The period drama The Tudors has 11 nods and the rookie dramedy Being Erica has snagged nine nominations.

Several other shows vying for Canadian television's top honours have also seen the end of their run. Showcase's Testees, which is also up for best comedy series, was not renewed after a single season.

Ellis said the fact that critically acclaimed shows are being cancelled without finding an audience indicates that quality Canadian television is not being sufficiently appreciated.

"I always say this joke and I mean it with all due respect to everything — only in Canada would a show that nobody saw be nominated, or win an award."

She said she hopes the nod could mean it really isn't the end for her show, for which she was co-writer, co-creator, producer and star.

"Three Chords told the story of a fictional country music station overrun by fame junkies and cutthroat record execs, but she said the core cast could easily shift to any other location on another network.

Other stars have noted that popularity doesn't necessarily translate into a chance at award-show hardware.

Canada's beloved Corner Gas, widely considered the country's most popular sitcom of all time, was shut out of the nominations this year, something creator and star Brent Butt called "kind of goofy." The series has nabbed five Geminis over its six-season run, including the best comedy titles in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

> **"I always say this joke and I mean it with all due respect to everything — only in Canada would a show that nobody saw be nominated, or win an award"**
> Phyllis Ellis, creator of Three Chords From the Truth

Sara Morton, head of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, said nominees are selected by a peer jury made up of people who work in the area of TV being judged. The quality of shows is placed above ratings, although the shows that are nominated are often popular, she said.

Morton said viewers can expect a distinctly western flavour when the show airs this weekend. After traditionally being held in Toronto, the show has hit the road for several years, visiting Regina and Vancouver. "We want the viewers to know that the show is coming from Calgary, Alberta, and really have some fun with that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Griffin guests on Law & Order
Comedian Kathy Griffin will guest star on an episode of Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. The D-List star would be appearing later this season playing a lesbian activist. TVGUIDE.COM

Jackson funeral costs top $1M

Michael Jackson's private family funeral was fit for a king and had a price tag to match — roughly $1 million US, according to court documents.

Although Jackson died in June and had a large public tribute at the Staples Center in Los Angeles in July, the private family funeral held Sept. 3 appeared to have been arranged with urgency.

Legal requests for payments filed with estate administrators by attorneys for Michael Jackson's mother only three days before the scheduled burial noted that if payment was not received by the funeral home and the Glendale Police Department by Sept. 1, "the funeral will not proceed."

The lawyers warned that such a development would cause Katherine Jackson and the family "public embarrassment and added grief, along with the daunting task of having to make new arrangements."

Jackson

There was no indication of resistance by the administrators, who approved payment of all expenses and reimbursement of Michael Jackson's sister Janet for an advance payment to Forest Lawn-Glendale of $49,000.

The final tally of costs included $855,730 to Forest Lawn for cemetery and funeral charges including the purchase of other plots within the same mausoleum that houses Jackson's body.

Also listed were: $35,000 for burial garments; $1,975 for wardrobe for the family; $2,000 for usher costumes; $3,682 for framing of a photograph of Jackson next to the casket; $959 for embroidery; $11,716 for invitations and programs; $16,000 for flowers; $30,000 for cars and security; and $15,000 for a funeral designer. There was also a charge of $21,455 for the "funeral repast" at a restaurant after the ceremony.

During the period that the family waited to bury Jackson, they were charged $5,000 a month for holding the remains in a temporary vault.

The documents showed that his mother, brother Randy and sister Janet were involved in the planning and were mindful that the media would be covering the funeral, although media were not allowed inside the ceremony.

"Mrs. Jackson and her family wish to honour her son by a funeral that seeks to offer solace to his multitude of fans and by which the family also may be comforted," the attorneys said. The costs were substantial but "entirely commensurate with the decedent's worldwide status as an entertainer and the world's grief over his death."

Mrs. Jackson's attorneys were granted the request for $1 million. The administrators noted this was in addition to the costs of the Staples Center tribute.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warhol sells at auction

• A Thriller-era silk-screened portrait of Michael Jackson created by Andy Warhol has sold for $812,500 US to an anonymous collector. The artwork sold at Christie's in New York City Tuesday. Christie's estimated the portrait would sell for $500,000 to $700,000. The 1984 portrait depicts a smiling Jackson in a jacket with squiggles of red and yellow in his hair.

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Beer in Hell tastes sour

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Matt Czuchry and Geoff Stults in I Hope They Serve Beer In Hell.

Alcohol-fuelled sexual encounters are a clumsy, often embarrassing and regrettable rite of passage for many college kids.

More often than not, these sort of sweaty, post-party indiscretions are usually locked up in the vaults of memory, never to be spoken of again in polite company.

But blogger, author and now, film personality, Tucker Max isn't one to leave his saucy skeletons in their respective closets.

In fact, through his website (tuckermax.com) he's made a kind of cottage industry out of simply spilling his guts about all of the inebriated, campus dwelling women he's grappled with.

Max's bestselling cult book I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell has now been made into a self-penned feature film that has already opened and closed in the US.

It will enjoy a limited theatrical release in select Canadian cities tomorrow.

"The movie didn't do very well in the U.S. and I really thought it would," says Max.

"But it doesn't bother me, it was poorly marketed and we didn't have the budget to spend on publicity. It was like trying to climb Mount Everest without a jacket. But I know it will do really well on DVD."

I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell opens in theatres tomorrow

The film, like the book and like all of Max's scribblings, gleefully objectifies women as nothing more than conquests waiting to be claimed by him.

Matt Czuchry stars as, well, Tucker Max himself, a smirking schemer who manipulates his equally unsavory friends to visit an out of town strip club in order for him to sleep with a dwarf.

Sound off color?

That's putting it mildly, but Max says this lecherous aesthetic comes from a place of truth.

"Listen, this is all me," the slightly defensive writer insists between healthy gulps of Guinness. "I'm not a character, not a cartoon. I'm 34 now and these are simply stories of my life, who I am and what I've done."

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/12/09	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	After Elizabeth II (N) (CC)		The Border "Kiss and Cry" (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	The Vampire Diaries (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N) (CC)		The Mentalist "Red Bulls" (N)		CTV News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	Stargate SG-1 "New Ground"		Supernatural (N) (CC)		P3	Ek Noor	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Survivor: Samoa (N) (CC)		The Office (N)	The Office	90210 "A Trip to the Moon"		News
	256	389	12 VI	TMZ (N) (CC)	Hollywood	FlashForward (N) (CC)		Fringe "Of Human Action" (N)		(:01) Private Practice (N)		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	Community (N)	Parks-Recreat	30 Rock	30 Rock (N)	The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Supernatural (N) (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Survivor: Samoa (N) (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Mentalist "Red Bulls" (N)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Beyond The	Community (N)	Parks-Recreat	The Office (N)	30 Rock (N)	The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Old Christine	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Grocery Bag	Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	Divine Design	Don't Move
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	FlashForward (N) (CC)		Grey's Anatomy (N) (CC)		(:01) Private Practice (N)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	26 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Dummy ★★ (2003) Adrien Brody, Milla Jovovich.				Seinfeld	King	Cheers (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Field Guide	Steves Europe	Doc Martin "City Slickers"		Poirot "The Cornish Mystery"		Good Food (2008)		Cohen
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones "The Dwarf in the Dirt"		Fringe "Of Human Action"		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	Sherlock Holmes		Red Green	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		This Old Hse.	Hometime
	296	654	54 SBK	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier (CC)	'70s Show	South Park	Half & Half	Paid Program	Hatchett	Paid Program
	298	653	55 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Supernatural (N) (CC)		KTLA Prime News (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	56 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury Paternity tests. (CC)	
	297	652	57 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show-Letterman		Late Late Show		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	29 NW	The Nature of Things (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		The Nature of Things (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 U.S. soldiers are convicted. (N) (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	NFL Football: Bears at 49ers			Sportsnet	The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(6:30) Curling Road to the Roar: Men's A Final. (Live)					SportsCentre	World Poker Tour (CC)		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters "Salem Witch"		Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Survivorman (CC)		Ghost Hunters "Salem Witch"		Bounty Hunter
	410	403	54 SCR	College Football		Score Now		Score Now		Score Now		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pass Time	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Jacked!	Jacked!	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol						Gol TV News	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Drake & Josh	To Be Indie	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Majority Rules	6TEEN (N)	Futurama	King of Hill	Spaceballs ★★ (1987) Mel Brooks. (CC)		
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled! (N)	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Babar (CC)	Zigby	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin (CC)	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Frontiers of Construction		Victorian Farm (CC)		(:05) Britain From Above		(:10) Cinema Asia "China"		Beautiful
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Unstable (N)	Unstable (N)	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Imp.
	570	580	24 MM	disBand	Instant Star	One Tree Hill (CC)		So You Think You Can Dance Canada (CC)				Spotlight
	600	564	25 H&G	House	House	Holmes Inspection (CC)		Renovation	Disaster DIY	Holmes on Homes (CC)		House
	615	520	51 A&E	The First 48 (CC)		Crime 360 "Overkill" (CC)		(:01) The First 48 (CC)		(:01) The First 48 (CC)		The First 48
	628	584	62 SPKE	(6:00) TNA Wrestling (N)		Deadliest Warrior		MANswers	GameTrailers	(:04) UFC 105 Countdown		Warrior
	521	560	34 TLC	Street Customs (N) (CC)		American Chopper (CC)		Street Customs (CC)		American Chopper (CC)		Street
	616	522	30 SHO	The Outer Limits "Birthright"		Da Vinci's City Hall		The Best Years		Saving Grace (N) (CC)		NCIS (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Saddest Music in the World		Law & Order "Consultation"		Without a Trace "At Rest"		The Saddest Music in the World ★★★		
	601	562	41 SLC	X-Weighted "Michelle" (CC)		ET Canada	What	The Biggest Loser (CC)		How to Find a Husband (CC)		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	MythBusters		Daily Planet (CC)		Nostradamus Decoded Famous/infamous prophet.				MythBusters
	522	506	44 HIS	Apocalypse		The Lost Book of Nostradamus (CC)				Nostradamus: 2012 Predictions of cataclysm.		
	627	528	45 SPC	Eureka Baby gifts. (N) (CC)		InnerSpace	Stargate SG-1	"Spirits" (CC)	Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)	
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:00) Meet the Parents (2000)		Lopez Tonight Larry David. (N)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Outer Limits "Tribunal"		ET Canada	TV Made	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	52 FN	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Family	Family	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Big Chef Takes on Little Chef		Ace of Cakes
	-	-	53 AMC	Demolition Mn	End of Days ★ (1999, Horror) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gabriel Byrne. (CC)					The Prisoner	Demolition Man ★★ (1993)	
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Hot Box	Jon Dore	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:30) Hidden Crimes (2009)		Baby on Board (2008) Jerry O'Connell. (CC)		(:45) Mr. Bean's Holiday ★★ (2007) (CC)				(:15) Iron Man
	581	566	101 MTV	Gone Too Far (CC)		MTV Live	Sex News	Peak Season	After	Gone Too Far (CC)		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	(6:00) Charlotte Gray ★★ (2001, Drama) (CC)				Sergeant York ★★★★ (1941, War) Gary Cooper, Walter Brennan. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	106 MUL	Sewing Maid	Kingdom-Wind	Vancouver	Shaktimaan	Dheeyan Ghar	Sadabahar	Connections	Desi Rhythms	Patrol World

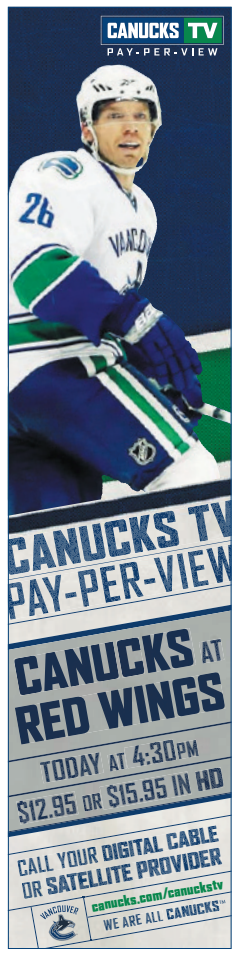
critics'corner

The Mentalist

Minelli (Gregory Itzin) orders Patrick (Simon Baker) and his team to put aside their differences and work together with Bosco (Terry Kinney) and his team in order to locate a kidnapped woman who is being held for ransom in the new episode "Red Bulls." Robin Tunney, Tim Kang, Owain Yeoman and Amanda Righetti also star; Dominic Hoffman and Seana Kofoed ("Men in Trees") guest star. 10 PM on CBS CTV

The Office

Troubling rumors about Dunder Mifflin rock Michael's (Steve Carell) world, driving him to overreact (yeah, we're shocked, too) by forcing the office into diversions so strange they upset Jim (John Krasinski) and make the rest of the staff wonder whether Michael has gone nuts. Andy (Ed Helms) discovers that his awkwardness is his biggest hurdle in courting Erin (Ellie Kemper) in the new episode "Murder." 6 PM on STR



Time to head to Whistler
Whistler's 13th Annual Cornucopia Food & Wine Extravaganza is back, starting today and running through to Sunday. With dozens of events, tastings, lectures, parties and dinners, this is a food and wine blast you won't want to miss. www.whistlercornucopia.com. ANYA LEVYKH/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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New Stella's proves sequels can be better

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Stella's on Cambie proves sequels can be better

The original Stella's on Commercial Drive is not a place of which I am overly fond. Putting aside the fact that beer is usually not my quaff of choice, the food — all tapas — never impressed or encouraged repeat visits. The recently-opened second location of Stella's on Cambie, however, has shown me that — occasionally — sequels can outdo their predecessors.

The tapas menu is still there, but this location seems to have more hits than misses. Cauliflower "popcorn" ($5) was overly limed and under-cheesed, but panko-breaded calamari ($10) were an improvement, light, fresh and not over-seasoned, and the "Belgian" poutine ($9) with miso gravy and fresh green onion was a definite keeper.

With eight variations of moules to choose from, I figured mussels were a specialty. I went with the Normande ($14 for a pound), a combination of Granny Smith apples, mushrooms, bacon, shallots, brandy and cream.

From the mains, a Queen Charlotte halibut ($17) over a pea and pancetta "risotto" made with jasmine rice was just perfect. This location offers any three courses from the dinner menu for $28, which is excellent value for what you get. Our dessert, a chocolate-banana bread pudding ($7 a la carte), was deep, dark and eminently satisfying.

On the web

- Read the full article online at metronews.ca/vancouver/columnist/40411.
- Chew more on Anya's blog at metronews.ca/vancouver/blog/136310.

ANYA LEVYKH/FOR METRO VANCOUVER
Belgian poutine with miso gravy and green onions

Bibliography wins award

HONOUR A bibliography of Canadian cookbooks from 1825 to 1949 captured the first Canadian Culinary Hall of Fame award presented last week. Historian Elizabeth Driver spent 10 years compiling Culinary Landmarks: A Bibliography of Canadian Cookbooks, 1825-1949.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Going green for the holidays

Fetzer Vineyards in Mendocino, California, has been practicing sustainable wine growing and production since the early 1908s and currently runs on 100% renewable energy, including solar, wind and thermal. The 2008 Valley Oaks Chardonnay is a medium-body, fruit forward wine, with notes of vanilla bean, lemongrass, hazelnut and cloves. BCLS $13.99, but watch for a reduction over the holidays.

Dining out

IRISH DELIGHTS
The Irish Heather (210 Carrall St.) is continuing their popular Long Table series with a new menu for November. Enjoy a different entrée and pint of the good stuff for $15 every day. Upcoming selections include braised lamb shanks with a 16 oz pint of Grimbergen, roast turkey with onion stuffing, veal osso buco and Irish stew. Visit irishheather.com for details and reservations.

DINING DEAL
Society Dining Lounge (1257 Hamilton St.), in honour of their grand opening, is offering a two-for-one deal on all food items between 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily. Call 604-629-8800 for reservations.

In brief

OPEN A second Ethical Bean Xpress is now open at Granville SkyTrain Station. Get your carbon-neutral, fair trade, organic coffee here.

FEST Advance tickets to the 2010 Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival will go on sale Nov. 24. Public events will be on sale as of February 2, 2010. ANYA LEVYKH/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Splitsville for Julianne
Julianne Hough and Chuck Wicks have decided to call it quits. "This was mutual. They needed some time apart," a source tells People. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Jon and Angie reconcile

SAY DAD, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BABYSITTING? After a seven-year rift, Jon Voight tells the new issue of Us Weekly that he and Angelina Jolie have reconciled. "We're in touch, but not regularly," Voight, 70, confirms to Us Weekly. "We love each other and that's the most important thing."

Jolie, 34, stopped speaking to him in 2001 after a teary Voight appeared on Access Hollywood and pleaded for her to seek help for her "serious mental problems." But in February, "they met face-to-face" and have been talking ever since, a family friend tells the new Us Weekly.

"Angie made the initial contact," says the pal. "Brad (Pitt has been supportive — a key factor in her reaching out."

Source also say Jolie has her heart set on adding one more child to their family and has begun the paperwork to adopt a baby girl from Syria, according to Hollyscoop. But Brad Pitt is reportedly less thrilled about the idea.

"He has made it clear that six children are more than he can handle," a source says. "The idea of one more seemed ludicrous, but Angie is determined to complete her rainbow family." An INS spokesman confirmed that "only Angelina's name was on the adoption papers," according to the website.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Christmas will proceed as usual at Gosselin household

SOUNDS SUSPICIOUSLY NORMAL Jon Gosselin says he and estranged wife Kate will spend Christmas together with their eight kids, usmagazine.com reports. "Christmas Eve and Christmas day are joint-shared custody days, which means we're both in the house," he tells AOL's PopEater.com. "So we'll be there." Jon, 32, says he does not expect any showdowns, adding that he and Kate, 34, plan to stick to tradition. The kids "do the stockings early Christmas morning," he says. "Kate makes sticky buns. We keep it all the same. Nothing has changed. That way they have the sense of security with everything that's going on."

He adds, "This year, there's a lot of paparazzi, so who knows? Every year it's different." With his hectic schedule, the reality star says hasn't started buying presents yet. "It will probably be all Internet-based this year, pre-wrapped," he adds. "You know, I'm a guy, when there's free gift wrap, I'm like, 'Yeah, yes please.'" METRO NEWS SERVICES

Renée's going to meet the folks

DIDN'T THESE TWO BREAK UP LAST WEEK? Things are reportedly getting very serious between Bradley Cooper and Renée Zellweger. So serious, in fact, that they may soon be planning a wedding.

"As soon as his mom gives the sign off, he's going to propose," a source tells Gatecrasher. He's even bringing her home to his parents' home in Philadelphia for Thanksgiving. "Things have been heading in this direction for the two of them for a while," the source says. "But this definitely solidifies how serious they are." METRO WORLD NEWS

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Celine loses her baby: Rep

FERTILITY BATTLE Celine Dion has lost her baby. A spokeswoman for the pop star has confirmed that Dion's pregnancy, which she announced in August, has failed. The couple had its first child with the help of fertility treatments, she became pregnant again with the help of the same technology, and the couple has kept trying despite the latest setback. Dion tried fertility treatment last month, but that didn't work, and she will make another attempt at getting pregnant this weekend in New York. Dion's husband Rene Angelil has told a newspaper that he and Dion are disappointed but determined, and that they take comfort in the fact they already have one child. Dion, 41, and Angelil 67, have an eight-year-old son Rene-Charles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travolta likes to play tennis at night

ENOUGH WITH THE DAMN VAMPIRES ALREADY John Travolta has become a fan of playing tennis, but he tends to indulge in the sport at very strange hours. "I play at midnight. Kind of vampire-style," he told Ellen DeGeneres when stopping by her talk show. METRO WORLD NEWS

Dina trashes ex over leaked phone tapes

THESE FOLKS SURE KNOW HOW TO STAY IN THE NEWS Dina Lohan is speaking out about Michael Lohan and the tapes of phone calls with her and Lindsay Lohan he's been releasing. "The tapes were from a long time ago, and for a father to stoop this low is unforgivable." METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

John Mayer has trouble adjusting to time zone changes, Paris Hilton loves indulging her inner child, Elizabeth Taylor is starting the Oscar campaign for "This Is It," and John Cleese finds Twitter's questions a bit invasive.

• @johncmayer
Anybody in the LA area who may have returned from a trip to Australia want to play some racquetball or rent a movie?

• @Paris Hilton
My man bought me a Pink Castle Moonbounce. It's so cute and so much fun!

• @DameElizabeth
I truly believe this film should be nominated in every category conceivable.

• @JohnCleese
All those tweeteries asking me what I'm doing. You'd think they never heard of Google.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Kristen, Fergie are friends

BETCHA WE KNOW WHAT ROB'S THINKING While in Paris to promote New Moon, Kristen Stewart made a new friend: Fergie, who she met at a restaurant after dining with co-stars Rob Pattinson and Taylor Lautner.

"It was totally unplanned," a source tells People magazine. Stewart and Fergie reportedly chatted awhile before leaving together, holding hands as they walked out. "(They) looked like they'd gotten on really well." Fergie, meanwhile, recently told the Advocate that she's curbed her bisexual ways since getting married. "I've had a lot of fun with women, and I'm not ashamed of it," she told the magazine. "But just because I enjoy women doesn't mean I'm allowed to have affairs in my relationship." METRO WORLD NEWS

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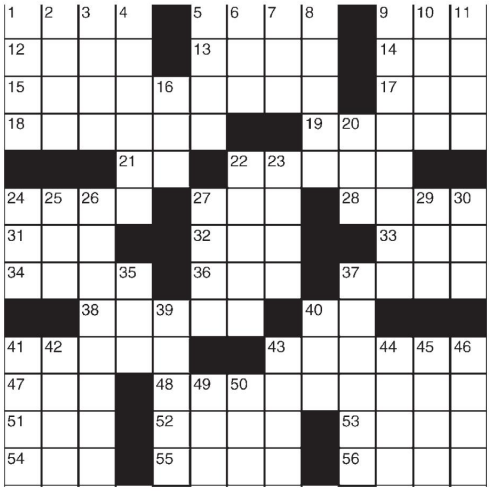
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	2		3		6		4	
		5				3		
	8		2		1		6	
	1	6				7	3	
9								6
	3	8				9	2	
	7		8		4		1	
		2				6		
	4		5		9		7	

ACROSS

1 Hardly hirsute
5 Last few notes
9 Hairdo goo
12 Addict
13 Any time now
14 Raw rock
15 Farm animals
17 Playground game
18 River craft
19 Cow catcher?
21 "Heavens!"
22 On the qui vive
24 Wan
27 Fellow
28 Pull strings?
31 Red or Black
32 Commotion
33 Gridlock component
34 Jailer's janglers
36 Card-table cry
37 Terrier type
38 Final approval
40 End of a Descartes quote
41 Expenditure
43 Comments to the audience
47 Monk's address
48 Measuring device
51 Buddy
52 Unpaid
53 Roll call reply
54 Wapiti
55 Solidifies
56 Poker variety

DOWN

1Magnitude
2 Largest of the seven
3 Tax
4 Really handsome
5 Eliot-based musical
6 Yoko of music
7 Elmer, to Bugs
8 Bracelet location
9 Couldn't proceed
10 Historic periods
11 Toy block name
16 Firmament
20 Museum fill
22 Sound portion
23 Holyoke founder Mary
24 Request
25 Witness
26 Needle location?
27 Jokes
29 Aye undoer
30 Prior to
35 Droop
37 Margaret Chase and Anna Deavere
39 Vacillates
40 Donkey
41"... so why not take all —?"
42 Caspian feeder
43 Puts two and two together
44 Regimen
45 Beige
46 Timetable, for short
49 Shock and —
50 On pension (Abbr.)

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

S	W	A	B	■	P	E	A	■	S	T	A	B		
A	I	D	A	■	O	A	R	■	T	U	N	E		
P	L	A	T	I	N	U	M	■	A	N	T	E		
S	T	R	I	C	T	■	O	R	I	G	I	N		
■	■	■	K	O	I	■	R	U	N	S	■	■		
A	B	A	■	N	A	B	■	M	E	T	R	O		
F	I	N	N	■	C	O	G	■	D	E	A	R		
T	O	T	E	R	■	A	R	T	■	N	Y	C		
■	■	I	G	O	R	■	A	S	S	■	■	■		
I	N	M	A	T	E	■	N	A	T	U	R	E		
R	I	O	T	■	H	Y	D	R	O	G	E	N		
A	N	N	E	■	A	M	P	■	C	L	A	D		
N	A	Y	S	■	B	A	A	■	K	I	D	S		

2	9	6	8	3	7	5	4	1
4	8	1	6	2	5	3	9	7
7	5	3	9	4	1	2	8	6
9	7	8	2	6	3	4	1	5
6	3	4	1	5	9	8	7	2
5	1	2	4	7	8	6	3	9
8	2	7	5	1	4	9	6	3
1	4	5	3	9	6	7	2	8
3	6	9	7	8	2	1	5	4

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Cauliflower & Goat Cheese Soup

Submitted by:
Samantha Denham,
Toronto, On

INGREDIENTS:

1 Head of cauliflower
8 Cup of chicken stock
1 four inch sausage of goat cheese

METHOD:

1. Chop up the cauliflower, removing hard pieces. Put in a pot with chicken stock.
2. Boil until very soft. (add more chicken stock if it is a large cauliflower.) Puree and strain.
3. Put back on the stove and add the goat cheese and mix until smooth. Garnish with spinach or parsley.

SERVES 4
PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 10 MINUTES

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You seem to be under a lot of pressure at the moment, but nothing bad will happen so long as you keep your wits. You're tougher than you look.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Don't plan anything too serious for the next 24 hours because this is a time for fun and games, not work and worry. Do only what makes you smile.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Go out of your way to help other people, because what you do for friends and loved ones now will be done for you at some stage in the future.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
It appears you are being far too critical, both about yourself and about other people. Life is not intended to be a burden; it's meant to be fun.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Hard work never hurt anyone. True or false? Whatever the answer, the planets urge you to give yourself a break, because you will diminish returns.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Mercury, your ruler, squares up to Neptune, planet of spirituality, so chances are you will be more concerned with your inner life than with the world.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You may have higher standards than most but you don't have to aim for perfection in everything you do. Even a Libra is allowed to let things slip a bit.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Keep what you know to yourself today because the fewer people who are in on the secret the more leverage it will give you to influence events.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You don't need to exaggerate your importance – friends and family and work colleagues are well aware of what you are capable of.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will influence important people with ease today, but you must not fall into the trap of promising things you may not be able to deliver on time.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You've got masses of strength, stamina and self-belief but you need to keep sight of the fact that you've got limits too

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
There is a definite luck factor working in your favor at the moment but don't overestimate your abilities.

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16 new ways to make life a little easier.

ESPN Score Center
Free • Get instant scores and updates on the fly from one of the most reliable names in sports news. ESPN's personalized scoreboards let you organize by sport and team so you get the updates you want, fast.

Twittelator Pro
$4.99 • Do you tweet? Use Twittelator Pro to send updates on the go, and bring them to life with photos and videos captured right on your iPhone.

The Sims 3
$6.99 • The ever-popular computer game arrives on the iPhone. Customize your Sims, explore stunning 3-D worlds and experience everything "real" life has to offer.

Tom Tom U.S. & Canada
$99.99 • Turn your iPhone into a fully featured Sat Nav with Tom Tom's expert voice-guided turn-by-turn directions, automatic re-routing, and more. It even links with your contacts list to give you directions to any address.

CBC Radio
Free • Listen to CBC Radio on your iPhone. Tap into 19 live streams and over 60 popular programs on-demand. Browse archived episodes and create a favorites list for quick access to the programs you love.

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